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REGULAR MEETING

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CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD

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SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PANEL

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ORIGINAL

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San Francisco Conference Center

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Suite E

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1240 OLD BAYSHORE HIGHWAY

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BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1991

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9:10 A.M.

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Reported By:

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Clara Mae Mathis,
CSR No. 2832

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. James Pitts, Chairman
 Dr. Charles Becker
 Dr. Craig Byrus
 Dr. John Froines
 Dr. Stanton Glanz
 Dr. Hanspeter Witschi

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. James N. Seiber

STAFF PARTICIPATING

Genevieve Shiroma
 Dr. Joan Denton

OTHERS PARTICIPATING

Dr. George V. Alexeeff
 Department of Health Services

 Dr. Stanley Dawson
 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN PITTS: We will officially declare this meeting, which has been going on for at least ten minutes, we will officially declare it operative, as it were, and welcome the panel members that are here, and the staff, the audience.

And the first item of business will be a discussion, a brief discussion and review, of certain relevant actions that took place at the Board hearing on perc last Thursday, and Genevieve Shiroma will present the material open for discussion.

MS. SHIROMA: Thank you, Dr. Pitts.

Just very briefly, we had a very lively Board hearing two weeks ago, and as I mentioned earlier, we want to thank Dr. Froines for help on the job and with our SVP deliberations in adopting perchloroethylene.

The Board did a number of things in adopting perchloroethylene. And they voted unanimously to adopt perchloroethylene as a contaminant. That was very clearly done. They also accepted the range of risk that was included in the scientific material. They did not accept the best value; however, they did not reject it either.

But they instructed the staff to hold a workshop for the ARB, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and at least one member of the SRP. They proposed to hold a workshop on the best value to work at additional

1 perchloroethylene and to have a dialogue with the various
2 interested parties on that, and to report back on that within
3 four months to the Board, and George Alexeeff is working with us
4 on that workshop.

5 (Dr. Craig Byrus arrived at the meeting.)

6 The Board expressed strongly and felt strongly that the
7 it was best to continue with the best science with the kind of
8 work that we all have been doing. There was no question about
9 that.

10 The Board did express concerns regarding the proper use
11 of the risk assessment value in risk management on the one hand.
12 There were certain statements being made about the risk
13 assessments, the risk management, the use of the risk values
14 that come out of this process. They were concerned about this
15 given that there are, as we all know, these are inherent in
16 certain risk assessment technologies.

17 The Board felt they needed to take a leadership role in
18 providing the necessary information regarding proper use of the
19 risk assessment values and in terms of risk management. We
20 think that you're aware what we are talking about is the
21 decisions being made whether it's at the local level or at the
22 state level regarding control requirements, or permanent
23 requirements, or notifications to the public on hot-spot
24 facilities.

25 The Board directed the executive officer to work with the

1 Scientific Review Panel, the Office of Environmental Health
2 Hazard Assessment, the public, and the industry on looking at
3 the process of using the risk values in risk management to
4 develop recommendations on the appropriate tools in how to
5 interpret those risk values.

6 We are to report back to the Board in six months on our
7 progress on this endeavor. And so shortly the staff --

8 DR. FROINES: Would you say that part again. I missed
9 something.

10 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Go through the whole thing in terms of
11 process.

12 MS. SHIROMA: What's meant there is that the Board wants
13 the Air Resources Board staff executive officer to start a
14 dialogue with you folks, with industry, the districts, the
15 public, the Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessments
16 in looking at how those risk values are used. Is that the
17 appropriate use today in the terms of making a decision about
18 whether or not or to apply it in order to control it.

19 To start that dialogue, as far as how are those decisions
20 being made? And should there be some discussion about whether
21 or not there are some alternatives as far as how those decisions
22 are being made in risk management. So it's to start that
23 discussion. We're not trying to predetermine what the outcome
24 is. Many people out there know how to go about making
25 decisions.

1 One idea we had was to start with a focused seminar or
2 conference in early 1992. We would bring in a lot of the
3 experts, a lot of people who are familiar with whether it's --
4 how one goes about making a decision and start a discussion. We
5 were discussing earlier that right now the districts are in many
6 cases saying that if you are over a certain risk level, you may
7 or may not receive your permit. It's a very simplified approach
8 at this point.

9 The Board wants to hear back from us on in six months on
10 our progress. I'm sorry. From the staff. I'm sorry. From the
11 Air Resources Board staff. And in our work with this Scientific
12 Review Panel and all on others.

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Excuse me. I need to get that again
14 clear in my mind. Is that going to be related to the actions
15 that the Board will be taking in the risk-management context
16 after the SRP has gone through this whole procedure?

17 MS. SHIROMA: That's right. There was a clear signal of
18 a separation between the risk assessment and continuing with
19 the best science, the best methodology available to you,
20 continue with that work. It's that phase where you have
21 finished your work, made your recommendation, your assessment of
22 the range of risk, how should those pieces of information can be
23 used in risk management. How should those pieces of information
24 be used by the air pollution control decision, the State Board
25 in making control decisions?

1 It is a very clear signal. They are not telling you to
2 make changes in the way you approach the findings; what they are
3 saying is that you should take a look at -- once we have those
4 risk values what do the the risk managers do with those values?

5 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I'm not through yet. This is a very,
6 very key point, because I think historically -- stop if me if
7 I'm incorrect -- basically, this is the first time that the Air
8 Resources -- I'm not drawing a judgment value on this. I'm just
9 trying to historically go through this.

10 It's the first time that the Board has not accepted a
11 unit risk best value that has come through the entire process,
12 scientific process, and used that. Is that right? At least
13 accepted that value.

14 Because we're saying if they did not accept the value of
15 whatever it was -- 54, the number was.

16 MS. SHIROMA: It's the first time that they have made
17 this kind of evaluation. I may say they did not accept the
18 value, nor did they reject. It they asked the staff, the Air
19 Resources staff, the Office of Environmental Health Hazards
20 staff along, with the SRP representation, to go back and hold
21 one more public dialogue with the interested industries and
22 public, come back to the Board with the recommendations.

23 So what they have essentially done is put that best value
24 on hold until we have this one additional public dialogue. Now
25 in the past, the Panel would include a range of risk.

1 CHAIRMAN PITTS: We always have. That's correct.

2 MS. SHIROMA: It's really only recently that the Health
3 staff has started to also include a best value, so there has
4 been some evolution in the process.

5 That would be taken to the Board, the range of risk. The
6 Health staff began to include a best value. We have now come to
7 the point where perchloroethylene, where they have asked us to
8 go back, have that one more dialogue, come back to the Board
9 with a recommendation on what that best value would be.

10 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Now, what do we do on formaldehyde
11 today?

12 MS. SHIROMA: Oh formaldehyde today --

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Clearly we will have a range. The range
14 has been there for some years, and the best value has been
15 around for seven years, hasn't it?

16 DR. GLANZ: Methylene choride was the first one.

17 MS. SHIROMA: Methylene chloride, nickel TCE, chloroform,
18 which only lasts two years.

19 DR. GLANZ: Two years. As I recall, the best value
20 didn't originate with the staff. I kind of remember the Panel
21 wanting that.

22 CHAIRMAN PITTS: That's right.

23 DR. GLANZ: And I feel quite strongly that we have a
24 responsibility to come up with best value number now. What the
25 ARB decides to do with it is sort of their business, but I think

1 we should, in these reports, include the range and the best
2 value. I think that it would be irresponsible not to.

3 MS. SHIROMA: And the Board was not asking for anything
4 differently. They were basically saying continue in providing
5 that information.

6 DR. GLANZ: Now was there -- I talked to Bill Lockett
7 about this a little bit a couple of days ago, and we have
8 established the streamlined process. But was perchloroethylene
9 something that was sort of in a transition period where there
10 weren't as many public workshops, public meetings, as we have
11 under this process?

12 MS. SHIROMA: That's correct. Perchloroethylene was one
13 of the last of that.

14 DR. GLANZ: Okay. I think that that's a very important
15 point in terms of going back and having this additional public
16 meeting, and I would personally like to construe that as a
17 peroration in the system due to the fact that through the
18 transition, a public meeting wasn't held rather than setting a
19 precedent for changing the procedures we have put in place.

20 MS. SHIROMA: Right. The Board indicated this was
21 setting a precedent for future compounds, because, as you say,
22 we have streamlined the principles today where the workshop is
23 incorporated into the streamlining process.

24 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I have another question. It may have
25 occurred to some of you, but it has occurred to me who -- on

1 what basis, what scientific basis, what science, or how is
2 ultimately the final value -- what the science is going to be
3 behind the final value for perc? Will the science be -- will
4 that value be determined -- who will determine the science upon
5 which the Board finally makes a decision that the number isn't
6 54; it's ten.

7 I thought the Panel was supposed to be our science input,
8 and that was risk assessment. And I sort of see -- I'm not sure
9 how that's going to happen.

10 DR. FROINES: Let me comment on that. The Board was
11 concerned, and when the meeting began, the Board was more than
12 concerned. They were hostile and --

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: To whom?

14 DR. FROINES: To everyone. They felt they had been
15 lobbied very hard by a lot of different people, and since they
16 hadn't heard the other side, in a certain sense there was a lot
17 of tension in the room excluding the number of people who were
18 in the audience. So the Board had been told basically by a
19 number of people that there had not been an adequate
20 participation and a workshop, and they in a sense seized on
21 that, and that was then later discussed by the fellow from the
22 -- Paul Kammer, who raised it.

23 And so it was an issue before the Board. And so we had a
24 lot of discussion about that about how science is done, and
25 about how laws are done, and that sort of thing, and so on, and

1 so forth, but basically that was a sticking point. It was a
2 sticky perception that people had.

3 So what happened was basically what the Air Resources
4 Board did -- Genevieve, is entirely correct -- was not rejected,
5 the best number. To simply recognize that perchloroethylene was
6 a difficult document. It was complicated. There were a lot of
7 uncertainties, and they simply said, "Go back. Take a look. If
8 you come up with same number as you did before, fine. Bring it
9 back to us."

10 And basically implying that they would then adopt that.

11 "If you change your mind, bring us back another number."

12 The issue isn't so much the number as it is the process,
13 and it's the process that they were concerned about.

14 And so let me stop. And I want to come back to this
15 risk-management issue in a few minutes, but that's really what
16 was going on.

17 MS. SHIROMA: So, Dr. Pitts, processwise our plan is
18 continue with the same methodology in that the best values are
19 developed by the health staff, George and his staff. They are
20 reviewed by the lead SRP member.

21 And one thing that we could take a look at is what we're
22 getting is butadiene and the other compounds. In going back and
23 developing those values, George came before us to discuss this
24 with you. And before that they moved into the administrative
25 stage.

1 And I think the Board wants to go back, and we go back to
2 the Board in very short order, essentially to hold that workshop
3 with the public, George's staff, looking at where there is
4 additional data, new data.

5 DR. GLANZ: Well, again, I think again I see this as a
6 transition, a problem that was created by the change in
7 procedures that we're using, and I think it's important that the
8 SRP maintain control over that number in terms of what gets
9 recommended to the Board. So what I would suggest we do with
10 this -- and again because it's a transitional problem -- is you
11 have your work shop. John is there.

12 But I think it should come back to us before it goes back
13 to the Board and give us a chance to either amend our previous
14 recommendation or to say, "Well, we're going to stick with the
15 previous recommendation." So it's very clear that a group can't
16 come in after the fact and sort of sidestep the process here.

17 DR. FROINES: I think there is something that I talked to
18 the Board about and they accepted wholeheartedly and with
19 enthusiasm, and that's that this Panel's role is to be a quality
20 control-quality assurance aspect of this process as a scientific
21 matter. Therefore, two things: (1) we are really not going to
22 get into a kind of a chin-to-chin dialogue and debate these
23 issues with industry, or environmental groups, or whoever.

24 Our job is George should organize the workshop. Anybody
25 from the panel who chooses to attend should do so. But then it

1 incumbent on George to bring back the results of that workshop
2 to us so we can continue to play that quality control role. So
3 then we go forward.

4 But we are not now being asked to become kind of the
5 third participant in the ring. We are to continue to play our
6 role as we have played it, and therefore it's George's
7 responsibility to carry out the workshop.

8 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Dr. Becker.

9 DR. BECKER: See, Genevieve, that's the kind of thing
10 that's confusing to me. Because if, at the time, I participated
11 in this process, I don't believe that any of our decisions was
12 made on the management process. I have never heard that
13 discussion.

14 MS. SHIROMA: That's correct.

15 DR. BECKER: So now I will agree with what John said.
16 I'm uncomfortable about the management side of it, because you
17 know, track record on that, we have no input.

18 MS. SHIROMA: And I should emphasize you're not being
19 asked to specifically start to make risk-management decisions.
20 In fact, quite the opposite. The Board was very clear that the
21 science that you're using, the methodology that you're using,
22 that's your purview, and you should continue with that.

23 It's up to the Board staff, executive officer, working
24 with the various groups involved -- the health folks, the
25 industry, and public as well as with your link to the standards.

1 It's up to staff to work in developing those tools as to how to
2 make the decision on whether or not to issue a permit.

3 DR. FROINES: I want to just say this: I want to be as
4 stable and strong as possible. It is not the role of this Panel
5 to be involved in the risk-management process, (1).

6 Secondly, it seems to me that it is this Panel should be
7 precisely precluded from being part of the risk-management
8 process because the decisions about how much cancer one is
9 willing to accept in a society is a social decision. It should
10 be made, not by a small body of scientists who think they have
11 some measure of truth around risk-assessment numbers. It should
12 be made by the public; it should be made by affected industries,
13 by scientists, by environmentalists, by the public, by
14 government agencies.

15 The social decision about what one is prepared to accept
16 is a decision that should not be made, as far as I'm concerned,
17 by nine scientists. It's out of the scope of our role.

4
18 I think our role is to do the very best science and
19 precisely be precluded from the risk-management phase of the
20 concept. It doesn't mean that we wouldn't necessary participate
21 in the risk-management process under a difference guise, but it
22 means that this process, it seems to me, has to be separate.

23 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I would just say for the record that is
24 what actually was the whole theory and premise upon which this
25 whole 1807 was founded and has been -- I guess John and I are

1 the original charter members of this -- has been the way it's
2 been operating through the years. At no the time have we ever
3 felt we were part of this management.

4 But there is a difference -- there is a difference -- in
5 this step here that I was referring to in the risk-assessment
6 phase, because we have been asked for the first time as a panel
7 to take a compound which has not -- benzene is another case. We
8 had a set of rules. If they want to come back on benzene, the
9 following things have to be done. It has to be covered with
10 literature.

11 This is different. It's qualitatively different. I'm not
12 objecting to this. I'm not saying it's wrong. I'm only saying
13 this is different, and I want to be sure that the risk
14 assessment is, in fact, handled in the way we expect to see it
15 handled. And I agree with Stan.

16 One more thing. Let me ask this question. I'll ask the
17 question and see what happens. Formaldehyde is a very
18 controversial area. There is a lot of pressure on formaldehyde.
19 I think we have just begun to see this. I understand a lot.

20 Let us suppose we come to a value, whatever the number
21 is. Seven is it? Something times ten to the minus. The wide
22 range is a factor of 40 or more than 40. Now, what happens if
23 we have in the risk management phase -- is there a possibility
24 or probability that in public testimony -- there will be a
25 public testimony? There will be -- it won't be the same as

1 perc. It won't be of that intensity or maybe it will.

2 We'll then go back again and go through another process
3 in which we say, "Okay. Here's the range, and here's the best
4 value. We have a lot of information from industry." And we
5 want to go back and go through the same process. I think that's
6 significantly different from what we have ever done in the past.

7 MS. SHIROMA: Let me clarify. George?

8 DR. ALEXEEFF: My name is George Alexeeff, the Office of
9 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

10 CHAIRMAN PITTS: OEHHA.

11 DR. ALEXEEFF: I want to essentially make a comment. It
12 refers to what Dr. Pitts is saying. It's an extension of what
13 Dr. Glanz is saying.

14 We would add the perchloroethylene as -- I would say as
15 an exception in the system, and although Genevieve focused on
16 the risk-management aspects of it, I think the real reasons that
17 we're looking at it again are twofold. One is there was an
18 initial indication that we were going to have a workshop.

19 No. 2, there was only a ten-day comment period from our
20 final document, and because the actual choice of the number has
21 such a potential impact, I think the Board just wanted to make
22 sure that the ten-day comment period with the absence of a
23 workshop that we were sure.

24 With formaldehyde we have had the workshop, and we have
25 had a 30-day comment period. It's not at all the same issue as

1 with perchloroethylene.

2 We have dealt with a lot of controversial chemicals, and
3 I think simply that we felt that although the procedure we used
4 was legally correct, that it really did not provide enough
5 public access whereas in formaldehyde we have provided as much
6 as we can.

7 CHAIRMAN PITTS: That's not according to what Chevron
8 said in the first public comments.

9 DR. GLANZ: They always say that.

10 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I don't understand that. I don't
11 understand that.

12 DR. GLANZ: Well, I'd like to make a suggestion. Again,
13 I think we are dealing with a special case here because of this
14 transition, and I think that it would be worthwhile -- I think
15 it might be useful for the Chair to send a letter to Jan
16 Sharpless saying that the Panel recognizes that there are some
17 special circumstances surrounding perchloroethylene because of
18 the transition to the new process, that there was not a public
19 workshop, and therefore, we are quite happy to have the staff go
20 ahead and hold the workshop and then come back to the Panel with
21 just that one point for final clarification. And then it can be
22 sent back to the Board.

23 And say that we don't anticipate that this is
24 establishing a precedent as long as the new procedures are
25 followed. We would hope once something gets out of here, it's

1 gone.

2 DR. FROINES: But I don't think that -- maybe I should
3 take a minute and tell you what the real change is so you
4 understand what's being discussed. Because I want to speak as
5 strongly as possible that there was never an issue raised
6 whatsoever about this Panel having to modify its process with
7 respect to the risk assessment number. I mean that never even
8 came up.

9 So we are having a discussion here that a has a little
10 bit of unreality to it. Let me tell you what did come up,
11 because I brought it up. It's the underlying issue which nobody
12 has described yet.

13 With perchloroethylene, there was a number of risk
14 values. There was the value that George came up with that was
15 represented -- that was based on assuming a certain percentage
16 of metabolism of perchloroethylene which represented the most
17 probable upwardbound. Upwardbound.

18 Now, George uses the most upwardbound because that's what
19 his cancer policy has told him to do over the last five years.
20 He operates on the basis of conservatism. If somebody said,
21 "George, always comes back with the life investment," he would
22 do that, but the policy he operates by is, for the most part,
23 coming in with conservative approaches. Fair?

24 Now, there was a lower number which was assuming a
25 metabolism of around five percent that was the most probable

1 number, the best average if you will. And then there were some
2 numbers that were lower down around two percent that I think the
3 data that they're derived from are such that they're not
4 acceptable as a matter of science. They are based on incomplete
5 metabolism.

6 Okay. Now, here's the issue. Here's the issue. So
7 let's forget the 73 percent metabolism and the two percent
8 metabolism, but let's assume that we have two reasonable
9 numbers. One is a probable upwardbound, and one is a best
10 estimate.

11 Now, it's those two numbers that I think the Board, and
12 the staff, and the people who do risk estimate are going to have
13 to look at when they get into the risk-management phase, because
14 they're going to have to decide, given the uncertainty -- and
15 there are a lot of your uncertainties with perchloroethylene --
16 given the uncertainties with perchloroethylene, what is the most
17 appropriate value to use for purposes of risk management?

18 And it could be the most probable upwardbound, and it
19 could be the best estimate. But the attempt the risk manager is
20 going to have to do is to factor in how do you address
21 scientific uncertainty? How do you address cost, and how do you
22 address control technology, and all those things.

23 So what's being said is that it may be that the risk
24 manager may accept a value different from what we think is the
25 best value, because the best value that we came up with is the

1 probable upward best. But in a certain sense, that may not be
2 the best value from the standpoint of risk management.

3 And if that -- if the attempt on the part of the risk
4 manager to do a much more sophisticated evaluation of the data
5 than has ever happened before. So what we're talking about is
6 the risk-management process should become a more sophisticated
7 process and not simply be the, quote, bright line, the number
8 that we come down with is the bright line that the South Coast
9 Air Quality Management District says they're going to go with
10 which means we, in effect, are making a risk-management
11 decision. We are.

12 And we ought to understand that when we see what South
13 Coast is doing. So my point is that what the risk manager
14 should do is not necessarily accept our best value. But it
15 becomes one of the values. It becomes part of risk-management
16 process.

17 And that's what the issue is really about. It has
18 nothing to do with this Panel changing it's point of view; it
19 has to do with how do we improve the risk-management phase to
20 make it a better product as opposed to risk assessment?

21 DR. ALEXEEFF: I'd like to make one comment with regard
22 to the workshop. I think you have put it perfectly,
23 Dr. Froines, and I think the issue I would hope we might be
24 discussing at the workshop is the relative merits of the five
25 and 25 or a potential other number somewhere in between.

1 And if there is some change that's made, if for example,
2 after reviewing the data, we decide that, let's say, five
3 percent is really the better value to go with, and then my
4 thought would be we would prepare documentation of that and send
5 it to the Panel again for the review before public comment
6 again, a ten-day period or whatever is required. It would go to
7 the Panel, and I guess without public comment. It would simply
8 be -- it would involve public comment. It would simply be a
9 ten-day period for the Panel to review it. And then we would
10 meet on it as a panel. We would have to consider if there is a
11 panel or not.

12 DR. FROINES: The key point that your determination
13 should not change because of the subsequent risk-management
14 phase.

15 MS. SHIROMA: Exactly. Exactly.

16 DR. FROINES: We should make that the law for the way we
17 operate.

18 DR. ALEXEEFF: The focus has to be strictly on that
19 metabolism range. What do we know about it? How do we get
20 them? Is there a better way?

21 DR. BECKER: I'd like to endorse Stan's suggestion. I
22 had a chance to talk to Jan Sharpless. There was some question
23 whether we would all appear at that session. I had to teach
24 students on that day and couldn't.

25 I think that what happens is the perception of a little

1 about the bit of arrogance that we were trying to do something
2 that was never the intention of anyone around the Board. And so
3 I think perhaps just a gentle letter saying that we want any
4 data that we have which is reasonable for us to consider.

5 We're here not put up a barrier for any scientific
6 information. I think that's what they wanted to hear from us,
7 and I think if we took a little bit of time and sent a letter
8 from our Chair saying that we're here. We're here not setting a
9 barrier of ten days or forcing this issue.

10 Because I think there was a perception that which in my
11 experience has not been a reality. It seems like there were
12 extenuating circumstances. A carefully crafted letter which
13 would be a little bit humble, which, in fact, I think is what
14 the Panel, in my experience of the Panel and all the documents
15 really have been such that we were interested in having more
16 information. We are open, not closed.

6
17 I think that would go a long way to just take some of the
18 energy out of this.

19 DR. FROINES: I agree with that, but I want to state
20 something, that I think it's important for us all to recognize.
21 And I was joking when I said about the 300 people sitting behind
22 me when I was presenting it.

23 But what's happened now -- we didn't do anything wrong.
24 That shouldn't have even been an issue. What happened was that
25 there were a lot of industry people who went out and garnered a

1 lot -- went out and raised the flag about people are going out
2 of business and said industries were going to die, and on and
3 on. You saw all the letters that came through. There were
4 hundreds of them.

5 And so there was an immense politicization, if you will,
6 of the process. And there were 300 people there, and it was a
7 very tense situation. And the Board was responding to that.

8 And I think there's something that we have to be very
9 clear about. I think that we have to be clear (1) that we are
10 completely open to any and all information that is timely and
11 scientifically appropriate.

12 And secondly, I think we should also be clear that we
13 don't intend to bow to the sort of politics of the situation
14 because we don't want -- if the signal goes out that the Panel
15 now will change what it does, and OEHHA will change what it
16 does, and the Air Resources Board staff will change what they do
17 because of the political pressure generated around
18 perchloroethylene.

19 Then we have taken a step down the wrong road, as far as
20 I'm concerned. And we want to be careful that we make it clear
21 that this Panel is going to continue to function as it has
22 within the process.

23 DR. GLANZ: I totally agree with that. I have been
24 embroiled in a couple of controversies in San Francisco having
25 to do with zoning. And I can tell with you when you're very

1 unhappy about something, and you have been deprived of what you
2 perceive as your chance to get up and say your piece, people
3 going ballistic.

4 And I think what happened here is there was in the
5 transition, there was -- this workshop didn't get held, and I
6 think that people reacted very, very negatively to that. And I
7 think we should fix it.

8 But I think it's important, going along with what you're
9 saying, John, to say that this coming back to us, is to fix a
10 procedural error that was made in the transition to the new
11 process. And so, you know -- and to make that clear, and so
12 we're not establishing a precedent. We are not bound by
13 political pressure. We are giving people an opportunity to be
14 heard that they were inadvertantly deprived of because of the
15 change that went through the channel.

16 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I think what I will do here, we have one
17 person, I believe, in Washington, and we need to get onto
18 formaldehyde. I don't want to break this up.

19 One last comment here. Just one last comment that again
20 I agree. It is agreed, then, that we should write a letter
21 along the lines and we will draft such a letter?

22 DR. BECKER: And I would like to suggest that what George
23 had to say, this was an exception. This Panel is getting
24 involved in many compounds. This was this perception which was
25 not our intent, and we are going forward with change, no

1 scientific compromise. That's a strong point that we should
2 make.

3 CHAIRMAN PITTS: It was all in the first hearing. It's
4 in the record. The Panel expressed its concern. There was only
5 ten days between the time that went out, exactly that. We
6 expressed our concern on the record that there was not a
7 workshop. So that was all said back last June. I agree in a
8 pleasant way we agreed. In fact, we had some discussion.

9 Okay. One last little thing now. As I read the letter
10 from Chevron, in Part C it says here -- Part C. This is on
11 formaldehyde. I'm concerned that we register what happened.

12 It says the EPA -- in Part II it says.

13 (Reading)

14 The ARB should be aware that EPA is currently
15 revising their estimate of unit risk for formaldehyde's
16 carcinogenic potency. The EPA's best estimate,
17 quote-unquote is approximately two orders of magnitude
18 lower than the DHS's best estimate. -- developed in the
19 rat. Dah, dah, dah, dah -- Why do the experts disagree?

20 (End of reading)

21 And then in the response it says,

22 (Reading)

23 Studies that observed less cancer are more
24 consistent with the revised best estimate which is well
25 below the revised top of the range."

1 (End of reading)

2 It seems to me, as I see it, that's sort of a similar
3 scenario here where you have a wide range. You have the best
4 estimate.

5 And then you have the so-called best estimate. After
6 this if a number is picked today, will we again go through a
7 process, or can we expect to go through a process in which we
8 discuss -- the Board decides well, there is a high level, the
9 conservative value. There is a best estimate. We will just go
10 back and look at this.

11 And my question would be, then, in that case, will there
12 be there another meeting? Will there be a reexamination? Will
13 there be another best estimate come back to the -- and then also
14 what that leads to, by the way, is a better understanding of
15 what Chuck was saying. I think we need to understand carefully
16 what the process is going to be. We have been in a transition
17 stage. I agree with that. But I'm not sure I see where the
18 transition is ultimately leading to.

19 DR. GLANZ: that's why I think we should treat this as a
20 procedural matter.

21 CHAIRMAN PITTS: That's what I said. That's exactly my
22 point.

23 DR. GLANZ: We do have -- let me make one more comment.
24 You all have in your information sent to you, because we
25 discussed this with the chief of staff, you know, John and I

1 did, last Wednesday with the industry representative.

2 This is a Scientific Review Panel process for evaluation
3 and response to submittal of new scientific information as
4 evidence for review of CAC's risk assessment. In other words,
5 this would be the benzene.

6 Remember, we went through this in '89. And we said we
7 have a whole set of criteria: screening submittals, for
8 example. It has to be peer-reviewed, new evidence, and the
9 change is supposed to be -- it seems we are sort of saying here
10 again, too, what we really need -- and I would hope the Panel
11 would agree and perhaps the Board does -- a statement of this
12 not for a review for one which has already been a CAC declared
13 in the past, but a process clearly laid out now that will
14 define where this transition is going to lead us. And then we
15 will have it in black and white, and it will be publicly
16 circulated so all the players -- industry -- understand what the
17 process is. Is there any problem with that?

18 Just redo it. We can redo it. Have a draft. There is
19 no hurry. We will do it right. And we will get back with the
20 Board or get back among ourselves. What's the problem?

21 Because there should be something pretty well defined,
22 because I'm concerned that another paper is going to come out,
23 not published, not in the press, a hot subject finally will come
24 out. We are going way back to the hot zone. It was a rainy day
25 in the L.A. airport, and came up and said, "Here it is." And

1 "We have found all these new findings." And we're sitting
2 there. And then staff came. And we can't handle that.

3 Also, as I recall -- John, you might correct me -- I
4 think one criteria I think is important which we have to decide
5 among ourselves, we need to decide do we really mean that this
6 has to be a peer review in a journal before it's brought to the
7 attention or back into this review process or another-look
8 process?

9 Are we going to really look at something that came in at
10 the tail end of this whole thing as a report, but has not been
11 cleared? Reviewed?

12 DR. GLANZ: I don't read the review. John reads the
13 review. Why don't we come back to them?

14 DR. FROINES: I think this is really important. By the
15 way, folks, the number that we adopted for perchloroethylene did
16 not come from a peer-review document. Everybody should be aware
17 of the fact that it came from Del Patterson at MIT in a report
18 that he did. So it was not a peer-review document.

19 Anyway, I agree with Stan. There are a couple of
20 procedural issues I want to raise about this that relate to
21 formaldehyde. First is I'm a little confused. Jim is reading
22 from Part C. Then you have responses to Part C, but you have
23 also changed the document between these comments and today.

24 Now, presumably, industry, the public, have had a chance
25 to comment on the revised document, but we haven't seen the

1 responses to the changes.

2 DR. ALEXEEFF: No, we received the comments yesterday.

3 MS. SHIROMA: We did the responses today.

4 DR. FROINES: Let me just say one thing about that.

5 DR. ALEXEEFF: It isn't that late. Their comments are
6 in.

7 DR. FROINES: The thing that I'm concerned about is that
8 we don't get into a situation when we go before the Board,
9 somebody says that the Scientific Review Panel did not have
10 adequate time to review the comments that came in after the
11 revised document was prepared. Because as soon as we get into
12 that, we set ourselves up. Because at the hearing somebody was
13 going through the comments, you and I forget who, and somebody
14 from the Board said, somebody objected and said, "How could you
15 be responding to comments here that have just come in?"

16 And so there is this problem of perception of has
17 everybody been given an a fair shake if we don't get to those
18 comments until the day of the meeting? And the problem -- and
19 the reason why it's important is formaldehyde, given the level
20 of science associated with formaldehyde, those comments could be
21 quite important.

22 And especially given the uncertainty around the
23 monkey-versus-rat data. So that's a problem it seems to me.

24 The second procedural issue is -- relates to
25 formaldehydes is -- the good thing about perchlorethylene --

1 this is procedural. The thing about formaldehyde that's
2 important, I mean relative to perchloroethylene, is as far as
3 I'm concerned, we have two values. We have Dale's upper value
4 which is the most talked about. Then most of the other values I
5 think we could recognize. We don't really want to pursue them.

6 With formaldehyde you have a table with a lot of values
7 in it. And I do think that if in the future, the risk managers
8 are going to have to look at tables like that as opposed to just
9 taking the number that we come up with.

10 Then there has to be -- we have to be very careful to get
11 appropriate discussion of those values in terms of our
12 distributing -- the trouble with our tables is sometimes we have
13 too many risk values and that when you look at it and you say,
14 "Well, how can I make sense out of all this?"

15 And, you know, on the perchloroethylene there must have
16 been 50 different values.

17 DR. ALEXEEFF: Over a hundred values.

18 DR. FROINES: Over a hundred. So with perchloroethylene
19 we were able to focus sort of on two values.

20 The problem with the table that's so voluminous on
21 values, it's a hard to make a judgment about them. So with
22 formaldehyde in the future, we are going to have to decide how
23 to focus the discussion on a series of specific values and not
24 certain risk assessment.

25 "You know, you can do risk assessment by about 25

1 different ways, and let's look at all the values if we do them
2 25 different ways."

3 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Let me follow that point. It's a very
4 good point that John raised. I agree completely.

5 Were these some of the comments on this document? That
6 is, were there comments that we haven't got yet? Substantive
7 comments? I agree completely. I think it's not just
8 perception. It's actually science. It would be hoped that,
9 again, in this process we're talking about in the procedure,
10 we're going to have to see those well in advance of the meeting.
11 That's my feeling.

12 I don't think it's proper procedure from anybody's
13 perspective to have these, even though we may have in the past.
14 The past is the past.

15 DR. GLANZ: I recall getting comments before the meeting
16 on lots of things. I heard George say these came in late. When
17 were they supposed to be in?

18 DR. ALEXEEFF: The original due date was last week some
19 time.

20 MS. SHIROMA: We did try to accommodate them. They
21 needed a little more time. We were trying to be responsive to
22 that. They needed a little more time. We gave them the rest of
23 the week.

24 We should go into our presentation. I'm thinking that
25 some of these questions you're asking may be settled with the

1 the presentation. We are thinking perhaps we should start with
2 Part B since Dr. Froines needs to leave early.

3 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I was going to start with B for just
4 that reason. There are a number of questions about Part A also,
5 but that's fine with me. Let's go ahead then.

6 DR. GLANZ: One last thing, do you want to make a motion
7 about the letter?

8 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I'll do that, too.

9 DR. GLANZ: Just for the record, since I found people who
10 read these transcripts, I agree with everything that you said,
11 Jim, about the importance of our seeing this stuff, but if
12 something arises, you know, minutes before the meeting, I don't
13 want to establish a precedent that just because somebody gets
14 something here just before the meeting starts that it has to be
15 to taken into account.

16 Because we are opening ourselves up to being sandbagged.
17 If we give -- people were given the appropriate amount of time
18 to respond, and they come in late, in a way, that's not our
19 problem.

20 But anyway, I would like to make a motion that we direct
21 the Chair to write a letter to the Air Resources Board
22 acknowledging that in terms of perchloroethylene, there were
23 some procedural difficulties because of the transition to the
24 new streamlined procedure and that we believe it's appropriate
25 to hold an additional workshop. And we'll look forward to the

1 staff bringing back a revised report to the SRP on that one
2 issue of the best estimate which may end up saying there is no
3 change. Or there may be a change, and then we will act on it or
4 forward it on to the Board.

5 DR. BECKER: I second.

6 CHAIRMAN PITS: Any further discussion? Moved and
7 seconded. We will go ahead with Stan's suggestion for a letter.
8 All those in favor, aye?

9 (There were votes of aye.)

10 Very good. We will now go ahead, and we will start with
11 Part B on the formaldehyde document.

12 DR. FROINES: We will begin with the presentation of
13 Part B. George Alexeeff.

14 (Slide was placed on the screen.)

15 We have with us Stan Dawson, author of Part B.

16 DR. ALEXEEFF: With me is Stan Dawson who is the lead for
17 the hard key report, and I will just let him make his
18 presentation.

19 DR. DAWSON: Good morning. For the record, I'm Stan
20 Dawson, staff toxicologist with the Air Toxicology and
21 Epidemiology Section of the Office of Environmental Health
22 Hazard Assessment. I am principal author of Part B: Cancer
23 Risk Assessment for Airborne Formaldehyde.

24 In preparing Part B, the staff conducted an extensive
25 evaluation of the published literature with particular attention

1 to official reviews of cancer assessments by the International
2 Association for the Research on Cancer, IARC, and by the federal
3 Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and by the Federal
4 Occupational Safety and Health Agency, all in 1987. I have also
5 kept in close contact with EPA's staff and have reviewed their
6 more recent draft risk assessments.

7 The focus of our report is cancer; however, as stated in
8 the report, formaldehyde is a strong irritant and may be present
9 at irritating levels in ambient air.

10 I would like to summarize the most relevant findings of
11 our report. OEHHA staff has concluded that formaldehyde, or at
12 least one of its metabolites, can cause genetic damage. Studies
13 in mammals have clearly demonstrated DNA-protein crosslinks due
14 to inhalation of formaldehyde. That's Casanova, et al., 1989,
15 1991, and even earlier.

16 Human studies have reported increases in chromosomal
17 aberrations and sister chromatid exchanges in peripheral
18 lymphocytes, but negative human studies have also been reported.

19 In vitro studies and bacterial studies have produced
20 multiple genotoxic effects. In drosophila, oral administration
21 likewise produced multiple genotoxic effects. And all this has
22 been compiled by IARC.

23 A recent study by Crosby, et al in 1988 reported a
24 variety of molecular events that underly mutations in E. Coli
25 and human lymphoblasts.

1 All three of the inhalation bioassays for cancer that
2 have been covered, reported in the literature, showed that
3 formaldehyde produces malignant nasal tumors in rats. Albert,
4 Kerns, and Tobe.

5 The three largest industrial studies reported elevated
6 rates of lung and upper respiratory cancers. Blair, Stayner,
7 and Atchison studies.

8 Several studies of professionals reported elevated rates
9 of a brain cancer. Harrington, Walrath, and Stroup.

10 And a large residential study reported elevated rates of
11 nasopharyngeal cancer. Vaughn.

12 EPA and IARC in 1987 both determined that there is
13 sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity of formaldehyde in
14 animals and limited evidence in humans. Those agencies
15 therefore classified formaldehyde as a probable carcinogen.
16 OEHHA concurs with this classification.

17 Also, formaldehyde was identified as a chemical known by
18 the State of California to cause cancer under Proposition 65 on
19 January 1st, 1988.

20 Of further note is the more recent conclusion by Blair,
21 et al, 1990, in their review of human studies. Quote, it is
22 likely that the excesses of nasopharyngeal cancer observed were
23 caused by exposure to formaldehyde.

24 OEHHA has conducted a quantitative risk assessment using
25 results from the most definitive of the inhalation studies

1 reporting nasal cancer in rodents. That's Kerns' 1983 study.

2 The analysis screened a number of models according to
3 whether or not their predictions fit the data. The models used
4 a tissue-based measure of exposure: DNA-protein crosslinks,
5 occasionally referred to as DPX, From the data of Casanova, et
6 al, in 1989. The multistage result, using GLOBAL86, was a
7 three-stage model.

8 In response to comments on the first draft of the
9 document, the assessment developed models that explicitly
10 incorporated the effect of cell proliferation. Seven different
11 cell proliferation models, including two-stage models, both one-
12 and two-stage models provided fits of the data.

13 Because the staff has not previously presented cell
14 proliferation models in the risk assessments, nor has anyone
15 else published work on their use for formaldehyde, I will sketch
16 out our approach now. In the first view graph, the key in the
17 upper left-hand corner -- probably if you could focus that a bit
18 more so the Panel can see it -- shows that, starting on the
19 left, normal cells, Moolgavkar, with a probability of nu zero of
20 producing premalignant.

21 The premalignant clone then increases with a net rate of
22 K, and the premalignant cells have the probability of nu 1 per
23 cell per unit time of producing a malignant cell. And the
24 proliferation ratio -- really the rate of reproduction of cells
25 at exposure X -- divided by the control rate is allowed to enter

1 at any or all of the three points indicated at the top of the
2 screen.

3 The models outside the key represent the mathmatically
4 possible combinations of insertions of the proliferation rate,
5 R. Likelihood procedures then give estimates of the model
6 parameters just like GLOBAL86. The calculations used the same
7 basic bioassay data and exposure data. Most of the models gave
8 a good fit, and several gave only a marginal fit.

9 The analysis developed scaling factors to extrapolate
10 from the risks for rat nasal cancer to human cancer of the
11 respiratory tract, primarily the lung. Applying the
12 body-surface-area scaling factor of 1.2, which is the default
13 scaling, gave the value of the upper upper confidence limit for
14 the human lifetime risk of, well, q1 starred of 7×10 to the
15 minus third.

16 This estimate used the multistage model which does not
17 explicitly take into account the effect of cell proliferation.
18 Of the models that did explicitly take into account cell
19 proliferation, the five which fit the data well and one which
20 fits marginally gave the increased risk of ten times ten to the
21 of third ppm with a default scaling.

22 One other model which fit the data only marginally and
23 which appears inconsistent in having a proliferation effect on
24 malignant mutation, but not on the increase of numbers of
25 malignant cells, gave the decreased risk of 1.3×10 to the

1 minus third with default scaling. Uncertainties due to lack of
2 data for the models prevent making a clear choice of models.

3 In order to take into account the contact mechanism of
4 carcinogenesis for formaldehyde which is a general degree,
5 analysis developed two scaling factors in addition to the
6 default scaling. A generic contact scaling factor purely on
7 allometric or powers-of-body-mass relationships was 5.0. A
8 dosimetrically adjusted contact scaling factor, based on a
9 comparison of the DPX measurements in rats and monkeys was 0.28.

10 The staff developed this scaling factor in response to
11 comments on the first draft. Available evidence does not permit
12 the establishment of a clear case for either of these scaling
13 factors.

14 The application of these factors to the results of the
15 various models for respiratory carcinogenesis in rats gave a
16 range of upper confidence level on unit risk of 0.3×10 to the
17 minus third.

18 Each of the individual upper confidence levels on human
19 risk presents the highest value that's unlikely to be exceeded
20 assuming that the particular model provides a practical point of
21 quantitative description of the cancer process. The
22 range of lifetime risk values represents only the best
23 characterized sources of uncertainty, and there is a big range
24 in that Table 5.

25 I do point out, though, that the range of extrapolation

1 from positive animal tests to average human exposure is 80-fold.
2 So this is somewhat less than extrapolation.

3 The present analysis tested the predictions of the models
4 against the largest human study, Blair et al., 1986. The
5 finding was that the higher portion of the range of risk
6 predicted from the rat nasal cancer was consistent with data on
7 lung cancer from that occupational study.

8 Now, EPA. EPA in 1987 used a model based on applied
9 exposure because of the apparent unreliability of the DPX data
10 available at that time. That multistage model, using applied
11 exposure requires a minimum of five stages for an adequate fit
12 producing an upper confidence level on unit risk of 1.6×10^{-3} to the
13 minus third ppm with no scaling factor.

14 More recently, a draft update by EPA in 1991 used the new
15 DPX data in a two-stage model, calculating a q_1 based on $2.8 \times$
16 10^{-3} to the minus third upper confidence level --

17 DR. FROINES: Could I ask you about that last? You say
18 2.8×10^{-3} to the minus three?

19 MR. DAWSON: Right.

20 DR. FROINES: Is that based on monkey data or rat data?

21 MR. DAWSON: That's the rat.

22 For the extrapolation from the rat there is no scaling
23 factor. And the UCL on unit risk of $.33 \times 10^{-3}$ using a dosimetric
24 adjustment of the monkey data. Allowing for a 20 percent lower
25 value due to EPA not using any scaling factor, the EPA value

1 based on the rat data is about half the corresponding value
2 which is considered the best value in the present assessment.

3 Two highly questionable assumptions by EPA in their
4 quantitative analysis contributed to the lower risk obtained by
5 EPA. The first of these questionable assumptions was to use the
6 chi-squared test for goodness of fit thus allowing the adoption
7 of a poorly fitting two-stage model even though the GLOBAL86
8 authors advised again using the chi-squared test because of its
9 incorrect rejection rates in just such cases as this one. Use
10 of the Monte Carlo test, as recommended by the GLOBAL86 authors,
11 gives less than a 1.5 percent chance of this two-stage model.

12 The second questionable assumption by EPA was to use a
13 segmented linear relationship to interpolate between adjacent
14 data points for rat DPX and applied exposure, even though an
15 apparently acceptable mechanistic model to interpolate the noisy
16 data was available and was used in the OEHHA assessment as well
17 as the CIT. In other words, had they just connected up the data
18 points by straight lines.

19 Furthermore, the EPA update of July 1991 expressed a
20 preference for their risk number based on the monkey data.
21 That's the $.33 \times 10$ to the minus third. But the EPA staff are
22 reconsidering this approach in the wake of criticism received
23 from their Science Advisory Board at the meeting to review the
24 document. And I might add that in the public presentation which
25 I just attended last week in Detroit, the EPA was saying that

1 they are now planning to use a range of risk from .23 up to 2.8,
2 the first time they are using a range with no best estimate.

3 The natural occurrence of formaldehyde within normal
4 cells and the steep rise in incidence occurring in the cancer
5 bioassay about 6 ppm both suggest the possibility of
6 carcinogenic thresholds in the risk predictions; however,
7 substantial evidence establishes formaldehyde as being
8 genotoxicessentially implying no defined threshold.

9 Also, using only the cancer incidence data below the
10 concentration of 6 ppm in a risk model leads to a good fit for a
11 linear model with a risk relationship that has the same unit
12 risk as in the best estimate that we can obtain. So in other
13 words, to weigh the high data point.

14 The use of the proliferation model shows mathematically
15 and mechanistically how the small slope at low exposures may be
16 consistent with the steep rise above 6 ppm. Thus the OEHHA
17 staff find that the evidence, including the new evidence,
18 against a threshold outweighs the evidence for it.

19 Based on the finding of carcinogenicity and the results
20 of the risk assessment, the OEHHA staff find that ambient
21 formaldehyde is an air pollutant which may cause or contribute
22 to an increase in serious illness or may pose a present or
23 potential hazard to human health.

24 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Thanks very much, Mr. Dawson.

25 Dr. Alexeeff?

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: Yes. We received two sets of comments.
2 One was from the EPA, and that was specifically solicited by
3 Dr. Dawson. He asked EPA to comment on our document since this
4 seems to be a very controversial issue. So Stan will summarize
5 the EPA comments and respond to them.

6 DR. GLANZ: Are they very long?

7 DR. ALEXEEFF: You want the whole letter?

8 DR. GLANZ: Since staff was such a -- that was a big
9 issue in Part C.

10 DR. DAWSON: We received the document with the proposed
11 identification of formaldehyde but not until October 7th, 1991
12 although the cover letter was dated September 20. Thus there
13 has not been sufficient time to review the document thoroughly
14 especially the new sections on cell proliferation models.

15 In an attempt to meet your October 15th deadline for the
16 comments, we have a preliminary list of remarks. The summary is
17 on pages 1 through 3 and 1 through 6 and should indicate more
18 thoroughly which UCL will be incorporated in cell proliferation.

19 The discussion concerning scaling factors is not quite
20 clear as to which unit risk estimates incorporate which scaling
21 factors. My understanding from Appendix A is that cell
22 proliferation modeling was ultimately not done and the default
23 scaling at 1.2, which is considered the most interpretive.
24 These sections should incorporate better -- do you want me to
25 read just straight through?

1 The best estimate of UCL, which is on Page 1 - 6, would
2 be better described as your most plausible evidence because the
3 best estimate has become statistical jargon which implies a
4 different situation than is described. Incidentally, this value
5 of 7×10 to the third ppm most of the value of the ppm is
6 considered an upward value for its range of UCL values. EPA
7 will not use a single unit risk.

8 Relationship of predictions to observe single unit risk,
9 Page 2 - 20. The use of lung cancer incidence and the
10 assumptions of two parts per million associated with
11 nonsedentary activity are not adequately justified. In relation
12 to formaldehyde exposure, lung cancer was not as clearly in
13 excess as was nasopharyngeal, the Blair et al study.

14 Concerns were noted in the document explaining why the
15 excess lung cancer may not be entirely free from formaldehyde
16 exposure. In addition, it would probably be more militant to
17 have the exposures in less active scenarios in trying to
18 generalize the situation.

19 And the next point, page 2 - 10, the first sentence. The
20 estimation that was used for the dosimetric model involved in
21 the procedures to obtain an estimate for the binding of
22 formaldehyde to DNA, (1), the exposure to concentration X,
23 instead of obtaining, which would probably be a straight line.

24 The discussion of the third scaling factor, the final
25 premise, the discussion of the third might be easier to follow

1 on page 8 - 14.

2 And the closing paragraph: A more complete list of
3 remarks on this document will follow in a few days from the
4 Health Environment Review Division.

5 DR. ALEXEEFF: They have told us they were not going to
6 send any more comments.

7 I now will just very quickly go through and pick up some
8 responses to those points. Okay. Well, the first point is
9 about the clarity of the discussion in the summary relative to
10 what's in the text, and I think it would have been all cleared
11 up if they had found Table 5. All I can say is I will try to go
12 back and make that clear.

13 And the next one is EPA desires to use the most plausible
14 value instead of best estimate for like our 6×10 to the minus
15 third. To me, that's kind of a -- we have been calling it best
16 estimate for a while now. To change that over it would take, I
17 guess, a policy change.

18 DR. ALEXEEFF: We have tried to be flexible on the
19 terminology in the sense that we did not want it to be a
20 statistical term, so we could change it to "most plausible
21 value" if you thought that was better. We could go through that
22 summary and change the words "best estimate" to "most plausible
23 value."

24 DR. GLANZ: I think "best estimate" is okay.

25 DR. BYRUS: Is "best estimate" a statistical term? Is

1 that official to use that?

2 DR. GLANZ: Well, yes and no. And you get into the
3 question of what "best" means, and there are lots of different
4 best estimates.

5 DR. FROINES: I don't agree at all. The issue around
6 perchloroethylene just used "most probable upper bound" and what
7 was the five percent level that Dale used; do you remember? It
8 was an average value or best estimate.

9 DR. ALEXEEFF: I forget his terminology.

10 DR. FROINES: But these terms convey meaning and,
11 frankly, I don't know what we mean by "best estimate" in this
12 case. In this case I must admit I'm confused about what, quote,
13 is the best estimate. I don't feel really comfortable with any
14 of them in a certain sense as to what best estimate. I don't
15 know what "best" means. Does it mean -- I don't know what it
16 means. I think we have to be very careful about the way we use
17 these terms.

18 DR. GLANZ: Well, I think that's a different argument. I
19 think that when we say "best estimate," we are using "best" in
20 the sense that normal human beings use the word "best," and that
21 is it's the one we think is the most reliable and more standard
22 than any others.

23 In statistical terms when you talk about "best estimates"
24 that has a specific technical meaning in certain contexts. But
25 What "best" means is the best. And squares estimate, there's a

1 whole variety of best estimates. So I think the specific point
2 that EPA was raising there, I don't find a problem.

3 Now, if we don't want to use the word "best" because it
4 would be in the way a normal human being would use "best,"
5 that's a different issue.

6 DR. FROINES: It's very, very policy-driven, because in
7 perchloroethylene we said our best estimate is in fact the most
8 probable upwardbound, so everybody at this table should
9 understand it. They accepted the most probable upwardbound as
10 their best estimate.

11 I don't know if that's the best estimate, and I don't
12 want that the particular sentence to be taken out of context,
13 but the point is it is driven by the fact that George used an
14 upwardbound as a best estimate.

15 DR. GLANZ: Well, that's right. But what I'm saying is
16 that's a different point than what the EPA is raising. They're
17 saying that we're using that as a specific statistical technical
18 term, and that should be avoided for that reason. And I don't
19 agree with that.

20 DR. ALEXEEFF: We have always had difficulty in deciding
21 what to call it. After what Dr. Froines said, it makes me think
22 that maybe a good term might be "best upper bound value." We
23 would be happy to go through and change that term throughout all
24 the things because that's what we are talking about. We present
25 a range of upper bound values, and we are saying that within

1 that range of upper bound values, this is the best upper bound
2 value.

3 DR. FROINES: I think it would be useful for you to
4 prepare a series of definitions that say, "These are the terms
5 we are going to use, and this is what they mean." And I think
6 we could adapt to whatever they are. And we should know what
7 your definitions are. It forms the basis for our conclusion.

8 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I think there should be a glossary of
9 terms or something in the documents.

10 DR. FROINES: In the appendix. I quite frankly am
11 confused.

12 DR. BECKER: I'm going to make a comment just in general
13 on this particular document, and that is the overall complexity
14 of this document is far greater than anything which has preceded
15 it. Now we have gone to DNA binding, and we are getting
16 complicated factors such as cell proliferation, so this is by
17 far the most complex, the most technically challenging. And yet
18 the executive summary doesn't, at least from my perspective,
19 especially that table, it needs definitional things that we can
20 agree to and come back to trying to read this in terms of in
21 light of the other things.

22 This has gone to the next generation. We have gone
23 another step further. So we need definitions, and we need some
24 firm basis on which to say, "We accepted this based upon this."
25 Does that make sense? The other people on the Panel may not

1 have felt that way.

2 CHAIRMAN PITTS: It makes a lot of sense.

3 DR. BECKER: Could I ask you one quick thing? The table
4 in the executive summary, that gives an incredible number of
5 indoor air quality as opposed to outdoor air. That person might
6 say, "Well, holy smoke! You have got -- I forget how many --
7 five or six thousand exceptions in the outdoor represents a
8 relatively small thing, so it's almost a statistical argument.

9 You could say, "Wait a second. Is that really
10 meaningful?" What I was getting at is we need definitions to
11 put some of these in perspective at least from my perspective.

12 Do you, in response to that, when you're dealing with
13 formaldehyde as a toxic air contaminant, are we considering the
14 indoor environment in the light of cigarette smoke? That's all
15 part of the course.

16 CHAIRMAN PITTS: That's a very deep question. I would
17 like to follow up on what Chuck has said. Does the ARB, then,
18 have the regulatory authority to regulate the sources of indoor
19 pollution?

20 MS. SHIROMA: We do not at this time. But the CAT
21 statutes specify that we are to discuss indoor air, because the
22 data are available for indoor air.

23 DR. BECKER: I understand that. You can understand my
24 feelings. You have got such an overpowering driving factor.
25 We're really talking about -- we have to make that very clear.

1 That's why I like that table in the executive summary, but I
2 wasn't sure of all the wording. If you could make that clear.

3 MS. SHIROMA: Perhaps one other piece of information we
4 could add to this discussion. If one would be exposed to the
5 outdoor levels for the 70-year lifetime, what would that be? In
6 that case you could compare formaldehyde against the
7 perchloroethylene.

8 DR. BECKER: That was one of my comments. The thing that
9 makes this compound difficult for me was the level of the
10 scaling factor is complicated. New findings, models were added
11 and -- but then that comparison. Because fundamentally we have
12 the toxic air contaminants. We ought to be able to erase that
13 from the outdoor.

14 DR. ALEXEEFF: Well, that's that table you found. I
15 think it does that rather well. Even from the outdoor
16 perspective, it's a greater impact than most of the chemicals
17 that we looked at.

18 DR. BECKER: That's exactly what I thought. My
19 perspective was that, yes that it these are pretty nice tables.
20 Where you put the unit of the risk for the outdoor even by
21 comparison with that. Do you understand? In other words, that
22 number still has merit.

23 MS. SHIROMA: I think right now it's contained in your
24 draft finding, the comparison of the unit risk. But I
25 understand what you're saying. You need to have some reference

1 to the outdoor.

2 CHAIRMAN PITTS: One last point. I think this is an
3 issue now that has been of great concern. If this is released,
4 and it says 7,000 cancer deaths due to the indoors, and there
5 has been a great deal of response from industry and from the
6 public. I'd like to ask the question: What agency is
7 responsible for controlling indoor air pollution?

8 Because this broad -- everything we have said so far,
9 this number is greater than the sum of all the others I will bet
10 you, death by cancer, by everything else we have looked at, this
11 one number. And it seems extremely important that the Air
12 Resources Board have a statement as to this is the number, and
13 this is how it comes out, and this is how one expects to proceed
14 in terms of treating this situation.

15 And I don't know. I don't have an answer to that, but I
16 hope somebody has an answer to it. Because that's the big
17 question. That's the 7,000 question.

18 MS. SHIROMA: And I'm not sure that we can simply address
19 what that next step would be in terms of taking that data,
20 because the response rests elsewhere at this point in the state
21 agency.

22 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I understand it's mismanagement, but I
23 sure hope it's communicated from the viewpoint of communication.
24 I hope that the -- I presume they are well aware of this.

25 DR. GLANZ: We can add a statement to that effect in the

1 findings.

2 CHAIRMAN PITTS: I think it's a -- I would hate to see us
3 proceeding from the Panel's point of view. I would have to make
4 it very clear that we recognize just exactly what Chuck has
5 seen, and what we have seen here, and that the -- we can worry
6 about this later, expresses its interest and concern and
7 interest in the fact as to how this will be treated in terms of
8 whatever risk management. That's a risk-management decision.
9 That's somebody else's decision, but we have a great interest in
10 it.

11 DR. ALEXEEFF: I think Stan still has a couple of --

12 DR. DAWSON: I will go very quickly through. The next
13 one was the question about the observed to predicted values, and
14 the EPA was being critical of our use of basically doubling the
15 actual exposure to account for the fact that the workers were
16 ventilating approximately on the average twice what a sedentary
17 adult would be ventilating. And I guess my response to that is,
18 you know, we can -- in particular, they didn't think it was
19 documented sufficiently, and the number came from our
20 Occupational Health Program and the standard value that they use

21 And I can certainly go back and double-check the sources
22 on that and the data and see about that.

23 DR. FROINES: Why do we need to do it that way? Why
24 can't we say it like it is? If we say that their intake is so
25 and so because they are --

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: Exercising? Moving around? Physical
2 labor?

3 DR. FROINES: Adjusting the actual exposure level.

4 DR. ALEXEEFF: Well, It's so much easier mathematically
5 to do it this way for one thing, and it seems to me to be
6 conceptually good.

7 DR. DAWSON: All we did was increase the ventilation
8 rate, use a standard occupational ventilation rate instead of
9 the standard sedentary information. That's why the exposure is
10 greater. We don't see this as a controversial issue. We always
11 assume that people involved in occupational environments are
12 breathing more heavily than we are sitting here, and the
13 standard assumption is twice.

14 DR. FROINES: You are talking about doubling the
15 concentration I thought you said.

16 MR. DAWSON: Yes. Yes. Well, what goes into there is a
17 rather complicated formula, the dosimetry of it as well. Well,
18 basically, the idea is simply the rats are at rest, so you ought
19 to compare it, first of all, to resting humans and take into
20 account the fact they are really getting twice as much
21 formaldehyde.

22 The next point was kind of a technical point about least
23 breath procedure, whether or not you were fitting versus the
24 exposure concentration or whether you were fitting between
25 predictions of absorbed -- I'm frankly somewhat at a loss as to

1 why they are worried about that. I will check with them. It's
2 basically quarreling with the word as far as I'm concerned.

3 Okay. And they want dimensional units on the variables
4 on the table -- that were included in the scaling factor and
5 that certainly --

6 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Is that basically it?

7 DR. ALEXEEFF: There are still other comments on the
8 formaldehyde. There were six actual comments. They were very
9 similar to the previous comments we received, but I was
10 wondering if it made sense to go through Table 5 just a little
11 bit to sort of clarify this -- the different risk assessment
12 approaches that we used.

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: What page is that?

14 DR. ALEXEEFF: Page 2-24.

15 DR. FROINES: But George, are the formaldehyde comments
16 germane to this?

17 DR. ALEXEEFF: I can go through these comments. It
18 refers to these kind of numbers. I wasn't sure how comfortable
19 you felt, based on Dr. Becker's comment about the large number
20 of numbers. If you want to go through that -- or should I go
21 through the comments? That way I think you will clearly
22 understand the depth of their question better in terms of
23 comparing the various numbers.

24 DR. GLANZ: I'd like to go through Table 5.

25 DR. FROINES: I, by the way, don't think it's the crux of

1 the question.

2 DR. ALEXEEFF: Oh, you don't?

3 DR. FROINES: No. Because I think we now have .3,
4 three-tenths to the minus three from EPA that does not appear in
5 Table 5. So we do have a problem.

6 EPA's latest 1991 document using monthly data has a .3
7 value and -- oh, pardon me. Okay. You do have a .3, but I
8 don't think it's the same.

9 DR. DAWSON: No, it's not the same, but the idea of -- I
10 think that I systematically did not put the EPA rat material in
11 because it is more problematical. They used to stamp this stuff
12 "Do not cite in the quote."

13 DR. FROINES: We have been through that before. We
14 agreed with methylene chloride that we wouldn't take into
15 account those values as they exist, and we could not take
16 scientific values into account just because they're draft
17 comments.

18 DR. ALEXEEFF: And with methylene chloride, we were
19 dealing with a 1987 draft, and we had a 1989 report, something
20 of that nature. So we had a couple of years over the EPA
21 report.

22 In this case, EPA is developing it concurrently with us.
23 We're sending out a draft, and they send out a draft. And
24 generally speaking, the draft is 1991, November. So that's just
25 a couple of months ago. So there would be no way we could have

1 their estimate in this draft, you know, because of our
2 preparation of that.

3 DR. FROINES: I don't want to stop you from Table 5, but
4 I do want to point out that you and I are going to be before
5 that Air Resources Board in a few months to present
6 formaldehyde, and I guarantee that the monkey data from the EPA
7 assessment is going to appear before us raised by somebody else
8 or by us. And I think we have to address it.

9 DR. BYRUS: I would like to discuss the use of the monkey
10 data that arrived at that number. I think the document is
11 pretty well-written, and I could understand anybody -- I have
12 trouble with it. I just would like to hear what EPA's rationale
13 was.

14 DR. ALEXEEFF: Dr. Dawson can correct me, but the EPA
15 monkey data is essentially the star data for all intents and
16 purposes, essentially the same number. So as I think I go
17 through it, which would be a 54-fold adjustment. In other
18 words, a 54-fold lowering of the concentration by using the
19 monkey data.

20 In our analysis of the monkey data, we suggest a 18-fold
21 adjustment. Now the reason for that is --

22 DR. WITSCHI: What exactly are the monkey data?

23 DR. ALEXEEFF: There were studies conducted where they
24 dosed animals to radio-labeled formaldehyde. Rats and monkeys.
25 These were acute studies, right?

1 DR. DAWSON: Yes.

2 DR. ALEXEEFF: And they compared the binding of
3 formaldehyde in the respiratory tract between the two species.
4 Now the advantage of rat binding is concentrated to a very small
5 portion of the nasal area. They are obviously nose-breathers,
6 and because whatever the geometric nature of their noses ends up
7 having most of the formaldehyde binding in a very small
8 location.

9 For the monkey, which breathes through both nose and
10 mouth as do humans, the binding for a large part for the highest
11 concentrations is also in the nasal area. But there are also
12 bindings throughout the whole respiratory tract, because our
13 nasal passages are not as small as the rat. So more gets
14 through.

15 So the issue of the comparison is depending upon how data
16 was prepared by the CIAC for binding at a couple of locations in
17 the rat and in the monkey, and there were a couple of different
18 dose levels. So depending on which dose level you choose and
19 which region you compare --

20 DR. WITSCHI: Meaning concentration?

21 DR. ALEXEEFF: Concentration of the formaldehyde.
22 Depending upon the exact comparison you make, you can get a
23 slightly different number depending upon the region of the nasal
24 area here, comparing, and the dose level.

25 DR. WITSCHI: The monkeys got more data?

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: Yes, the rats were completely concentrated
2 in that nasal area, and the monkeys were throughout their tract.
3 And this is consistent with other cell-proliferation data in the
4 monkey which shows cell proliferation throughout the respiratory
5 tract.

6 DR. BYRUS: The data, wasn't it bound formaldehyde? Not
7 formaldehyde --

8 DR. ALEXEEFF: This is bound formaldehyde. DNA
9 formaldehyde. We are getting down to the crux. This is much
10 more refined than anything we have looked at before. This is
11 not just tissue concentration or something like this. DNA-bound
12 formaldehyde.

13 DR. WITSCHI: C-14.

14 DR. ALEXEEFF: Yes. C-14, right.

15 DR. WITSCHI: Not exactly formaldehyde anymore.

16 DR. ALEXEEFF: So in some sense this is a much more
17 extensive analysis, and the problem that we had with using this
18 data -- we have done the calculations with this data. Well,
19 first of all in our 18-fold adjustment, when we use the monkey
20 data, it's 18-fold because we try to use as much of the monkey
21 region as we can. We would like to use all of the monkey,
22 because of the sensitivity of measuring formaldehyde, they
23 can't -- it sort of disappears as it gets to the larger and
24 larger volume.

25 DR. WITSCHI: Can I interrupt you. I thought by using

1 the monkey data, the unit risk becomes smaller.

2 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right. The unit risk becomes smaller --

3 DR. WITSCHI: One more interruption. The comparison?

4 DR. ALEXEEFF: The comparison is based upon the highest
5 concentrated point between the two species; not the total bound
6 between the two species. They didn't have data from the total
7 bound in the respiratory tract which is what we think would be
8 necessary to do a monkey-rat comparison. Ideally you would want
9 to know the total bound in the monkey respiratory tract and the
10 total bound in the rat respiratory tract. And then that would
11 be your comparison.

12 Then what we can do is we can compare the total bound in
13 a very small area of the rat and the total bound in a very small
14 area of the monkey. And that's the comparison.

15 DR. BYRUS: So that's the comparison? They didn't adjust
16 it at all?

17 DR. ALEXEEFF: They couldn't. Because for any particular
18 region of monkey nasal tissue, the concentration of bound
19 formaldehyde is less. Any region. And that's the comparison,
20 the concentration of bound per region.

21 DR. BYRUS: I'm really confused now. Like per area?

22 DR. DAWSON: Basically per area. It's an effect that was
23 really per gram of tissue, and they had obviously excised the
24 tissue.

25 DR. BECKER: Maybe I'm naive about this. This was the

1 other complexity I was talking about before. This level of
2 complexity is a nice idea, but has it been related clearly to
3 the level --

4 DR. DAWSON: That is one of the issues, the level of
5 complexity. This document brings in the level of complexity.

6 DR. FROINES: Can I just follow-up on what Chuck is
7 saying? Because I think it's an important issue. And that is
8 one of the things that comes up all the time, comes up from its
9 own proliferation, and it comes up with the kidney tumors, and
10 the proteins, and it comes up here with markers.

11 I'm very interested in markers, so it does seem to me
12 that it would be worth trying to think about what information
13 pretty much falls into the category of research as a research
14 issue that still needs to be developed, and what is information
15 that is sufficiently developed that falls into a category that
16 would be appropriate for regulatory purpose. And clearly those
17 are going to overlap.

18 But it does seem to me -- I think that's what Chuck's
19 getting at. In some cases there is still sufficient uncertainty
20 about the research issues that we have to be careful about
21 bringing them into a process which is in essence an ultimately
22 regulatory one.

23 DR. ALEXEEFF: Well, that is why we present the monkey
24 data included in the range, but it's not our best upper bound
25 value. Instead, though, I think there is a very good argument,

1 a very good understanding that the area where the radial label
2 has bound in the nasal epithelium is also the area of tumor
3 development.

4 The area of the rat nasal epithelium to which the C14 is
5 bound I think is fairly well correlated with the site of tumor
6 production in the rat. So that's what we are calling our
7 tissue-dose model or what's referred to as DPX. That's the
8 jargon that EPA created.

9 So we -- in the original EPA number in 1987, they just
10 used our old-fashioned style of exposure concentration and came
11 up with a risk number. That's what this top row on Table 5 is
12 applied to is this model. And that first one, the 15, is the
13 current EPA value, the one that's been approved based on the '87
14 draft when we first started this process.

15 Then the next thing, the tissue-dose model, the next
16 line, refers to this DPX. So this is binding. This is
17 incorporating the data of the C14 binding in the rat epithelium.
18 And we feel fairly confident about using this data.

19 Although it is very close to the frontiers of research,
20 we don't feel justified to ignore this data, this risk estimate,
21 and it does lower the potency. That's why we would lower our
22 risk number from 15 to 7.

23 So if you went to the current, applied this information
24 to this findings on DNA, it lowers the risk estimate, and we
25 feel very confident.

1 DR. WITSCHI: Those came about by not comparing monkeys,
2 but comparing the rats and the mice.

3 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right.

4 DR. WITSCHI: The mice have fewer tumors and with it was
5 found out that they have less tissue dose.

6 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right.

7 DR. WITSCHI: The monkeys have a totally different life
8 span.

9 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right. You're correct. So that is the
10 tissue-dose model.

11 Now the next set of values is the cell-proliferation
12 thing that Stan worked on. So let me just ignore the cell
13 proliferation at this point and go across the columns. And that
14 is okay.

15 The first scaling type is none. What that means is this
16 is -- we generally have in our guidelines, it suggests that we
17 should scale from rodents to humans based on surface area
18 conversion. We have discussed that many times that surface area
19 conversion is, unless there is other clear information, it
20 should not be done. That's what we use. That's our policy.

21 EPA did not do that for formaldehyde, although they did
22 do it for methylene chloride. It's really not that clearly
23 justified as far as we can tell, but that was their choice. So
24 the "None" refers to the scaling.

25 In the next column, systemic default, that's the systemic

1 default scaling. And in this case for formaldehyde. It's an
2 increase in the potency by 1.2, about 20 percent. So it's not a
3 dramatic change.

4 Now the next column is some other work that we have been
5 looking at in the Department, in the Office of Environmental
6 Health Hazard Assessment. In trying to do comparisons -- this
7 is since we are assuming that formaldehyde is causing
8 carcinogens in the respiratory tract, and it's not a systemic.

9 Therefore, we're thinking instead -- the default scaling
10 is really based upon systemic arguments. So we try to evaluate
11 simply lung-comparison arguments under that part of the analysis
12 here. So from that circumstance, it would be a five-fold
13 increase if you were comparing the number of epithelial cells in
14 the respiratory tracts between the species.

15 But this is still very preliminary in our sense, so we
16 just presented it as, you know, a scaling approach that has been
17 discussed previously in the guidelines, but it's not our
18 generally accepted approach.

19 DR. WITSCHI: You know, George, what you are talking
20 about, if I understand you correctly, these are trivial changes
21 in the unit risk or in this table compared to the one -- if I'm
22 correct -- which is about the factor of 50 if you include the
23 monkey data. Now, that's a big change. All the other ones
24 here, scaling or not scaling, is most trivial.

25 DR. ALEXEEFF: That's the last column of the monkey data.

1 Contacts asymmetric with the monkey data. So what this is doing
2 is saying, "Okay. We know you have got the risk-estimate data
3 from binding to the nasal epithelium of the rat, but the nasal
4 epithelium of the monkey doesn't bind as much. Therefore, you
5 should reduce the potency by the factors that they bind."

6 DR. BYRUS: Based upon the fact that you're deciding to
7 adopt the tissue-binding data, then that argument does make some
8 sense.

9 DR. ALEXEEFF: So we present that argument, and we would,
10 based upon the data that is available, we would compare a
11 slightly different portion of the respiratory tract in the
12 monkey versus the rat.

13 DR. BYRUS: Could you run through that? You didn't quite
14 get to the end of that. I didn't quite get the crux of why
15 you -- I understand that the experiment was done. I didn't see
16 the original data, so they looked at the bound formaldehyde on
17 the DNA, but they are only taking individual samples, and they
18 did not do a total bind in that, they didn't get the total
19 amount of a formaldehyde bind. You compare the total amount
20 bound in all the DNA in the respiratory tract, the rat versus
21 the monkey. You did not do that, right?

22 DR. ALEXEEFF: Correct.

23 DR. BYRUS: You are saying that that would really be the
24 accurate the comparison for extrapolating --

25 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right.

1 DR. BYRUS: -- the total amount bound, then theoretically
2 would be the same dose.

3 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right.

4 DR. BYRUS: They did not do that. They just took
5 individual tissue sites, and since the rat is more concentrated
6 anatomically, it has a much higher binding.

7 DR. ALEXEEFF: Correct.

8 DR. BYRUS: Am I right?

9 DR. ALEXEEFF: You're right.

10 DR. BYRUS: Well, that makes sense. For that reason I
11 could see not taking that data, extrapolating the monkey data.

12 DR. FROINES: This is all acute data. We have a problem
13 with using acute data.

14 DR. ALEXEEFF: Acute data is a very good point, because
15 that is the answer to the cell proliferation information that I
16 will present next. If we feel squared on that, I'd be happy
17 just to tell you what happened with the cell proliferation data.

18 DR. FROINES: It is important to be clear that in the
19 human epidemiological data, there does appear to be a dose
20 effect. It's not just an animal issue whether dose rate effect
21 is relevant.

22 DR. DAWSON: Yes, but the dose rate effect would be taken
23 into account in part by use of these data in animals. At least
24 that gives you what looks like a dose rate effect, but it's
25 really DPX effects.

1 DR. BYRUS: I think the other concern about the monkey
2 data -- tell me if I'm wrong -- the monkey might repair this
3 factor faster than implicit in the interpretation of that data?
4 Or can't you make that interpretation?

5 DR. ALEXEEFF: That was a comment we made in response to
6 them, and we are trying to understand why the concentrations
7 might be so different in that area. And that is more than one
8 possibility. We don't know a lot about the monkey like we do
9 about the rat.

10 DR. WITSCHI: Well, you certainly don't know if a monkey
11 is cancer proof.

12 DR. DAWSON: No, we don't know.

13 DR. ALEXEEFF: Now, what happened in the cell
14 proliferation, and I think that -- we only take cell
15 proliferation into account.

16 This is -- as far as I'm concerned, this is on the edge of
17 the frontier of research. I think it's important to try to go
18 as far as we can. And it was really Dr. Froines' suggestion
19 that we include cell proliferation data.

20 Now, originally when cell proliferation studies came out
21 in '83 by Swenberg and in '88 by Zwart, et al., they are based
22 on acute studies. What they did is they found that the cell
23 proliferation in the rat was increased dramatically at these
24 same concentrations that the rat bioassay was done, a very high
25 rate of cell proliferation, and that they were saying that this

1 cell proliferation essentially results in the tumor genesis and
2 not, you know, toxicity.

3 So what has happened in 1990, the CIAC, the Monticello
4 and Morgan, they finally completed six-months and 12-months cell
5 proliferation studies in the same rat. And what happened there
6 is that proliferation is an acute effect at the lower dose
7 level. It's not a chronic cell proliferation. And there was
8 also a 13-week data point which showed that the cell
9 proliferation rate was already increased dramatically.

10 So at the dose level, the dose level of of six parts per
11 million which was one of the bioassay levels of the elevation in
12 tumors, the cell proliferation rate in the rat nasal actually --
13 you know, the numbers reported actually fell below the
14 background level for controls. So I mean that's just an issue
15 of noise.

16 DR. BYRUS: A longer term. What month --

17 DR. ALEXEEFF: Six to 12 months. They had six months and
18 12 months.

19 DR. BECKER: Doesn't that call into question the whole --

20 DR. DAWSON: At higher concentrations you did get the
21 ten-fold.

22 DR. ALEXEEFF: Still at the highest one, you still get
23 the highest cell proliferation. And so cell proliferation is
24 not -- instead of it being a very similar type of a response, it
25 shows elevation at all the dose levels. In the chronic, it was

1 only at the highest dose levels that the proliferation was so
2 high.

3 DR. BECKER: 13.7 parts per million?

4 DR. DAWSON: Approximately.

5 DR. BYRUS: So acute occurred even at what low dose?

6 DR. ALEXEEFF: I think it was all the way down to one
7 part per million.

8 DR. FROINES: The data are consistent with the theory
9 such as if you deal with cell proliferation, the level is going
10 to go up at the low-dose range. So what you found is what you
11 would expect to find: that when you take into account cell
12 proliferation, your risk will of necessity go up.

13 DR. ALEXEEFF: The risk will go up. It depends on what
14 is driving the risk at the lower bioassay doses. If, for
15 example, the cell proliferation rate as in the chronic syndrome
16 was the same as the acute symptom, then probably we would have
17 found a lower potency, and that's why in the comments, Starr's
18 original comments in here, he says he expects a maximum 20-fold
19 increase in net if we use cell proliferation. The actual study
20 showed ten to 20 based on the dose level. So that says
21 something about acute data.

22 The chronic data --

23 DR. FROINES: Let me ask you one question, because I'm
24 not sure it's worded correctly. On Page 2-6 you say.

25 (Reading)

1 Although the relationship between cell
2 proliferation and tumor response is uncertain, the
3 increase in the rate of cell proliferation would
4 increase the opportunity for formaldehyde to interact
5 with DNA in turn increasing the likelihood of
6 formaldehyde-induced mutation and formaldehyde-initiated
7 cells.

8 (End of reading)

9 Are you sure that's what you want to say? Because in
10 part what's really happening is -- what you're talking about is
11 cell proliferation enhances the fixation of the cells to
12 facilitate initiation, and it's not simply a question of
13 increasing -- it would increase the opportunity for formaldehyde
14 to interact with DNA.

15 The important thing is you have got formaldehyde bound to
16 DNA. You're killing cells, and so you get hyperplasia as a
17 response, and those DNA adducts then result in mutations because
18 of the fixing of the lesion in the DNA. So it's a little
19 different from what you have said here.

20 DR. ALEXEEFF: That's true. Except in this case it's
21 kind of a combination. I think your point is correct as well.
22 I think it should be both things.

23 In this case we actually have the binding data with the
24 DNA, so we also can make the statement that there is an increase
25 in binding based upon these acute studies, where in normal

1 cases, we are simply just assuming a cell proliferation period.
2 Because we don't know about the binding of DNA.

3 So it's a little bit -- I think you're right, and I think
4 this is right. But I think the actual right answer probably is
5 a little more of a combination of the two.

6 DR. FROINES: Yes, but he says earlier -- I think the
7 point that you're making -- he says, "Thus a ten-fold increase
8 in dose yields a greater than ten-fold increase in binding."

9 DR. ALEXEEFF: That's what was reported, yes.

10 DR. FROINES: So that goes to the issue. All I'm saying
11 is you say that same thing twice without addressing the other
12 aspects of the cell proliferation.

13 DR. ALEXEEFF: Okay. I see your point.

14 DR. BYRUS: Let me ask one more question about
15 proliferation so that I'm clear. Are people arguing, then,
16 about the -- if something increases the rate of cancer by
17 proliferation say independent of it being binding to DNA. Say
18 something that doesn't react to DNA, doesn't increase
19 proliferation.

20 The argument, then, is that usually only occurs at higher
21 doses, so I can't extrapolate down to the low-dose effect,
22 because there is no low-dose effect. All right. Now, are they
23 saying -- in this case here you have something that obviously
24 does bind to DNA and obviously something that does cause
25 proliferation. So it's mainly the lack of extrapolation.

1 Because if the proliferation effect, if there was a
2 long-term proliferation effect as well as the acute effect,
3 people would be arguing that really there would be less risk
4 because this effect would only occur in high doses; is that
5 right?

6 DR. ALEXEEFF: Yes.

7 DR. BYRUS: Independent of whether or not -- but we're
8 saying because it binds the DNA, it's going to bind the DNA in
9 all doses. And it may be more likely if cells are
10 proliferating, but it's going to bind anyway.

11 DR. ALEXEEFF: And we have seen binding at levels below
12 the proliferation level.

13 DR. BYRUS: That's right. That was my contention. So it
14 is clear that binding, they measured binding when they went to
15 this more sensitive assay.

16 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right.

17 DR. BYRUS: At doses that occur below the proliferation
18 level; is that right?

19 DR. ALEXEEFF: Binding has been measured at the lowest
20 dose tested, .3 parts per million in the rat and .7 parts per
21 million in the monkey.

22 DR. BYRUS: At .7?

23 DR. ALEXEEFF: Yes. And those are both for levels of
24 even acute proliferation.

25 DR. BYRUS: Even acute proliferation?

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: Apparently in the chronic and in the
2 acute, one part per million.

3 DR. WITSCHI: You can't really say, because the order of
4 man will be more sensitive than the averages we have for
5 monkeys.

6 DR. FROINES: Good point. There's no question that you
7 can get DNA binding without having cell proliferation certainly.

8 DR. WITSCHI: Well, we don't know. What I mean to say is
9 the access to cell proliferation, they are not very sensitive.

10 DR. FROINES: So I have to say based upon the existing
11 data, this what we're detecting, that the binding is several
12 levels below the level of cell proliferation is being detected.
13 And the detection limit is based upon the sensitivity.

14 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Could a simple old physical chemist ask
15 a question here? As I recall, in the big workshop in the
16 discussions one of the points was that -- to put it in the
17 simplest terms I can think of, is the problem with extrapolating
18 from high, probably high, ten ppm formaldehyde, carcinogenistic
19 potential, if I can use that term, extrapolating down to where
20 you would be at 1 ppm or half a ppm, when you got above the
21 certain level of formaldehyde you're actually prohibiting or
22 interfering with wonderful mucociliary clearance, and your're
23 actually -- the mucous layers can trap formaldehyde at levels
24 of -- again, the mucous layers can trap formaldehyde thus
25 preventing it from reaching the underlying epithelial layer is

1 the idea that you have too high a concentration. You knock out
2 the epithelial layer. That is the idea? You knock that out?

3 DR. ALEXEEFF: Well, that is the argument that is being
4 suggested.

5 CHAIRMAN PITTS: That's it.

6 DR. ALEXEEFF: But we found 90 below was one part per
7 million. That is the cutoff, and that's I mean by them.

8 CHAIRMAN PITTS: So that shoots the argument down
9 presented in the workshop. You can't extrapolate because you're
10 screwing up the epithelial layer by these very high
11 concentrations. Is that what you're saying.

12 DR. ALEXEEFF: I would question it.

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Well, you can't respond with another
14 question, however.

15 Could you not also -- there is an indication that perhaps
16 there would be a problem at lower levels of formaldehyde if you
17 breathe real air. Real ambient air has ozone in it, has
18 formaldehyde in it. These studies, as far as I know, are done
19 in clean air.

20 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right.

21 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Well, I don't think that's what you're
22 breathing when you breathe formaldehyde. Even formaldehyde
23 indoors is when you have got a gas stove on for example. That's
24 it.

25 DR. ALEXEEFF: As Stan pointed out --

1 CHAIRMAN PITTS: You might want to add that, by the way,
2 somewhere, regarding clean air. Because I can go back 20 years,
3 and they are talking about an ozone standard for pure air.
4 Finally they are coming around to remember that there really was
5 oxident, and you do have a multiple impact on multiple species
6 on your system. Just a footnote I think. Footnotes are okay.

7 DR. ALEXEEFF: One thing I wanted to say is that this
8 extrapolation, though, that we're doing amounts to high levels
9 of only eight-fold, whereas for perc it was a hundred thousand.
10 In terms of -- we are arguing these issues like the mucociliary
11 layers, DPX, but the extrapolation is not as great as what we
12 have been dealing with. And we have got so much data showing
13 things are happening.

14 DR. BYRUS: Is that reflected in the executive summary?
15 The statement you made, it would seem to me to be something
16 useful to have in the findings, the summary, just a comment
17 because we have the table, and we hear all this about
18 extrapolation. And it's kind of nice to see somewhere the point
19 you just made which seems pretty relevant.

20 DR. FROINES: I just had one procedural issue I would
21 like to raise. It's 11:20. Two of us walk out at 12:00. I
22 think that brings us below a quorum if I'm correct. Should we
23 go ahead with the discussion, continue the discussion as it's
24 going, and just take up the rest of this compound the next time
25 we meet? How do you want to proceed?

1 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Genevieve, what's your comment?

2 DR. FROINES: There is one reason why I asked that
3 question. While I was listening, I was also thumbing through
4 the Formaldehyde Institute comments, and they clearly make
5 significant comments about the epidemiology. I have some
6 problems with the way the epidemiology section is written,
7 because I don't think it includes some of the data that is below
8 the standard. But I think it's relevant.

9 And, thirdly, I think it's unfortunate that Dr. Friedman
10 isn't here, because he's our epidemiologist, and obviously this
11 is a very complicated epidemiologic issue. So if we did carry
12 it over to next time, then maybe Friedman could be here to
13 comment on the various aspects of the epidemiology.

14 MS. SHIROMA: Well, given that you will lose your quorum,
15 you would be unable to make decision today. We do have a
16 meeting scheduled for December 5th, and we're just getting ready
17 to mail out the report. So an option is to continue the
18 discussion at the December 15th meeting.

19 DR. FROINES: If we do do that, can we then get detailed
20 responses to the comments that are coming in? For example, the
21 new EPA numbers seem to me to need to be addressed. The points
22 in the formaldehyde documents need to be addressed.

23 DR. DAWSON: I think the formaldehyde documents -- I
24 think I would know how to address them, and I assume that --

25 DR. ALEXEEFF: I'm prepared to respond to them today if

1 we have time, but I think it's more important to go through what
2 is the substance of this chemical, and why we have all these
3 numbers. And if we wanted to defer that until you have had a
4 chance to review it, there are comments --

5 DR. GLANZ: Could I just ask a procedural question. I am
6 relieved that we are not going to be forced to make a decision
7 on this by noon. In light of the discussion that we have had
8 today and these new comments from the Formaldehyde Institute, if
9 any changes get made to the documents, do we then have to go
10 back out to public comment?

11 DR. ALEXEEFF: We don't expect any changes from
12 formaldehyde. We don't expect any changes. We did have a
13 couple of changes that Stan mentioned with regard to the EPA
14 comments, a couple of pointers to the table to clarify what we
15 are talking about and we can put in the glossary. I don't think
16 that requires -- I think those can be almost just as the final
17 editing changes that often occur in the process.

18 DR. GLANZ: So we wouldn't get another draft of this
19 between.

20 MS. SHIROMA: No. The same applies to the public
21 hearing.

22 DR. WITSCHI: If I might bring up something which is in
23 Paragraph 10 on the draft report of our finding which is --
24 would you say there is a result to exposure in an indoor
25 environment? And I haven't found anything of this being said in

1 the document.

2 DR. ALEXEEFF: I think on the actual findings portion of
3 it that's actually -- those are things that you as a Panel can
4 conclude or not conclude, and you can strike and revise the
5 findings of the final meeting. The findings are separate from
6 this. That's starting information for you to go to to any
7 conclusion you want.

8 DR. WITSCHI: Am I correct, this is not being discussed
9 in the document?

10 CHAIRMAN PITTS: To clarify it, these are effects other
11 than cancer. And I have a big sign on that too. I than haven't
12 seen those findings. I have seen them, but I haven't gone
13 through them.

14 MS. SHIROMA: I just want to clarify that draft finding
15 that you're referring to, Dr. Witschi, is from the risk
16 assessment discussion executive summary where the Health Program
17 will determine what the outdoor computations would be as
18 compared to the indoor computations.

19 DR. WITSCHI: Well, yes, I found it in the executive
20 summary. But that executive summary wouldn't affect the
21 document. You have got to have something in the executive
22 summary that's not in the document.

23 MS. SHIROMA: Well, what we do in the executive summary
24 is meld the Part A computations with the Part B, Health. The
25 only other thing is the risk-assessment discussion.

1 DR. WITSCHI: But there are things in the executive
2 summary that I didn't find in Part B.

3 DR. GLANZ: Again, point of order. Since we have sort of
4 decided that this is going to be continued, and since we are
5 sort of getting Table 5 explained to us, I would request that we
6 go back to what George was talking about before. And we can
7 deal with the findings later, because this is a very complicated
8 document.

9 Although I think in many ways it's doing a lot of the
10 things that we have tried to do or talked about before. It's
11 just getting down to molecular mechanisms.

12 I would like to say in addition, why are we doing this?

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Postponing a decision to the December
14 5th meeting, it seems to me we will be making this decision not
15 necessarily entirely on the fact that two people are leaving,
16 and there is not a quorum, but I would suggest that it's a very
17 complex issue, and as a matter of fact, we would be following
18 the suggestion of the Air Resources Board to act carefully. And
19 carefully take the time to examine it well from all sides even
20 though we may say, "Well, we won't do much."

21 And that falls in the spirit of what Jack suggests, that
22 we are very sensitive and proceed on that basis. And it's
23 important that all areas get explored carefully and numbers come
24 out careful.

25 And would you, when you do this, have a glossary and use

1 it. What's this term? What's that term? On a separate basis.
2 And then use it as an example. You might take perc as one, and
3 you might take this as another.

4 If we were to have this statistical number, it would mean
5 this. That definition gives us this number. I think it's
6 important.

7 That's what we have got to face, and you will be facing
8 the possibility that a different definition is what is
9 ultimately used in the control process. Okay? All right.
10 Fine. Now we're back until --

11 DR. FROINES: We are escalating the presentation before
12 the ARB. We are escalating our presentation on a meaningful
13 subject.

14 DR. BYRUS: I want to go back to 5-2, but I want to ask
15 the question of the range of the five, and what's going to go on
16 between now and the the next document, and that is what do you
17 think is appropriate vis-a-vis the new comments that you have
18 had from EPA and your familiarity with their draft document?
19 And to what degree should they be incorporated into Table 5?

20 DR. FROINES: We could certainly put those in there and
21 just cite those as it is.

22 DR. BYRUS: External review draft.

23 DR. FROINES: Excuse me. That's not the question I'm
24 asking. The question I'm asking -- I understand that you could
25 just do that, but I am saying give me your scientific judgment.

1 I want to continue discussion, assuming that it was in there,
2 and talk about from a standpoint of the scientific validity of
3 whether or not it's an issue of what you want.

4 DR. DAWSON: The difference between the EPA numbers -- I
5 mentioned one. One is their use of not -- the absence of their
6 use of the typical default scaling factor. So that would like
7 put their number in the left-hand column.

8 And then the other thing that an EPA member would include
9 would be they would have the a tissue-dose model based on the
10 rat and then a tissue-dose model based on that plus the
11 rat/extrapolation of the monkey.

12 DR. ALEXEEFF: In the analogy of the methylene chloride
13 situation where we have the dosimetric adjustment for the
14 animals in the study and then you have the species-to-species
15 adjustment. As in this case, it's rat to monkey, where in the
16 methylene chloride, we had rats -- or a mouse in vitro to human
17 in vitro. It's a species adjustment factor.

18 DR. DAWSON: So the methylene chloride data available
19 were not adequate to include the which decided to include the
20 species-to-species as the best value.

21 DR. ALEXEEFF: Right. And we decided the same thing in
22 this case.

23 DR. FROINES: Well, see if that's that's the case, then I
24 think the document has a little bit of obscurity. I know you
25 say it, but I think it needs to be more sharply done.

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: That's a good point. Okay. Now we're
2 down -- I have mentioned about the cell proliferation and why
3 the actual cell proliferation numbers are, in general, higher
4 than the non -- but you see them on that bottom of the cell
5 proliferation. There are several different models that one can
6 assume when we had that slide up there.

7 Is it still up there? Yes, it is.

8 The proliferation effect can occur at different points of
9 the process. You can proliferate normal, malignant,
10 premalignant. You can proliferate the premalignant. You can
11 proliferate the premalignant to malignant. There are different
12 parts that can occur, different combinations.

13 What if you assumed it only proliferated this? What if
14 you if assumed this portion of it? Or what if you assumed only
15 these two? These are different combinations, why they have the
16 different models, the different parts of this proliferation
17 process, the total number of that are used.

18 But what happens is in the calculation, they end up
19 reducing down to two possible proliferation choices in terms of
20 actual numbers, and the lowest number -- which one is this?

21 DR. DAWSON: The one that had low risk?

22 DR. ALEXEEFF: Yes.

23 DR. DAWSON: The bottom left-hand corner.

24 DR. ALEXEEFF: That's this one?

25 DR. DAWSON: Yes.

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: This is the one with the lowest risk in the
2 table. So in this case, the idea is it will only increase the
3 proliferation rate here from the proliferation rate here,
4 (indicating on slide) but not the proliferation rate directly
5 within the cell. In other words, some -- we felt that that was
6 the less likely of the cell proliferation if something was going
7 to cause it. We don't think it would be so selective on those
8 two slides, but it's possible.

9 And then the other thing is when you actually do the
10 calculations using that model, it's just barely -- what's the
11 correct statistical term? It's barely --

12 DR. DAWSON: Well, it's barely significant.

13 DR. ALEXEEFF: The choice of that model is -- in the
14 extrapolation, it almost falls out of it being considered.

15 DR. DAWSON: A good fit.

16 DR. ALEXEEFF: The fit is barely justifiable, you know,
17 in terms of it being a reasonable fit. So that's another issue
18 with that particular data set.

19 Now, actually -- I'm done with the table.

20 I have these other comments from the Formaldehyde
21 Institute I would be happy to go through that if you would like
22 me to.

23 DR. GLANZ: Could I ask you one last question about this
24 table and one thing that I had a hard time following? The
25 different scaling factors. Could you just say a few words about

1 where these came from why you ended up picking the 1.2.

2 DR. ALEXEEFF: Well, 1.2 is the scaling factor which is
3 suggested in our guidelines as a default scaling factor. That's
4 a surface area scaling factor from rodent to human.

5 The No. 1, the "none" --

6 DR. GLANZ: Just to refresh my memory, what's built into
7 that besides body surface area?

8 DR. DAWSON: Do you want me to finish? The idea of the
9 scaling factor is that you're are trying to figure out what
10 concentration gives you the same risk in animals. In that case
11 you just take the assumption that the total intake rate over the
12 body area gives you the same scaling, and you can justify it.
13 Several different ways of justifying that.

14 DR. GLANZ: I think rodents are -- people are more than
15 1.2 times as big as rodents.

16 DR. DAWSON: Oh, yes, yes. Right.

17 DR. GLANZ: Isn't there other stuff built into that?

18 DR. ALEXEEFF: The 1.2 is 1.2 versus a 1. That is a very
19 tricky point. In this case the 1 represents that a part per
20 million to the rat is the same as a part per million to a human.

21 Now what is often -- for some of the compounds we have
22 dealt with like chloroform, let's say, we didn't have inhalation
23 data, and EPA often expresses its scaling factor on a milligram
24 per kilogram basis. So if you assumed how much got in and then
25 scaled from how much got in, it's a slightly different number

1 than 1.2 to clarify it.

2 In this case, it's 20 percent higher than if you assumed
3 that what animals -- what rats breathe, humans breathe, the same
4 amount.

5 DR. GLANZ: So this is in addition to the light scaling?

6 DR. DAWSON: It's just a strict body surface area.

7 DR. GLANZ: I would think it would be some very large
8 number. People's have a larger body than rats.

9 DR. DAWSON: Well, remember, though, that the intake rate
10 goes up as well. So what this is is the ratio of intake rate to
11 surface area.

12 DR. GLANZ: So this is taking into account respiratory
13 rate and all that kind of stuff. So this is saying that if you
14 look at the respiratory rate times the tidal volume divided by
15 the body surface area for rats and for people, and take the
16 ratio, essentially all that stuff

17 DR. BECKER: Then if you apply the finding to the DNA and
18 you use the monkey data you get the other equivalent.

19 DR. GLANZ: Well, that was what I was saying as to the
20 complexity of this document, what happens is that the number is
21 basically a five-fold difference. If you only look at the lung,
22 I think the contact number was just for the lung, not systemic,
23 just assuming that this is in the upper airways. And the far
24 right column is only the monkeys. So that's only using the
25 monkey data; is that correct?

1 DR. DAWSON: Well, that's essentially the general idea,
2 but I just might add that what I call the generic contact factor
3 is what should happen if everything -- if the metabolism is
4 working the way it generally is supposed to; namely, that it's
5 drawing two-thirds body weight. So if you put that stuff in
6 there, then you get this contact scaling factor assuming that's
7 just the surface layer that keeps out the binding rather than
8 the whole body which is kind of a basis for the ultimate
9 systemic scaling.

10 But then the monkeys come along, and they basically
11 contradict the dosimetry for the monkeys, contradict that.
12 Because it should be the other way around. The monkeys are
13 better able to detoxify as would be predicted.

14 DR. BYRUS: But that's maybe because they didn't add up
15 the total amount bound completely.

16 DR. DAWSON: Yes. Oh, yes. Sure. Right. And there are
17 a lot of other things. They don't breathe through their noses,
18 and they didn't get a big enough dose. Because if the monkeys
19 were not breathing through their noses, then nine-tenths of it
20 went around their noses. You would only accept one-tenth only
21 to show up in the nose.

22 DR. ALEXEEFF: The interesting thing is if the monkeys
23 were breathing the formaldehyde, and if it is irritating to
24 them, did they switch from nose from to mouth breathing?

25 DR. DAWSON: They didn't sample the oral cavity.

1 DR. ALEXEEFF: That's right. They didn't sample the oral
2 cavity at all. They sampled the rest of it. They found some,
3 sure enough, down in the lungs. I'd like to say, that I hope
4 this stuff is clarified.

5 DR. BYRUS: Why does EPA like that number? Aren't they
6 aware of that?

7 DR. DAWSON: Well, I have talked to them about it a few
8 times.

9 DR. BYRUS: What do they say?

10 DR. DAWSON: Well, they say that's a nice idea, but they
11 don't understand it or whatever. But in defense of the EPA, if
12 the monkeys were breathing entirely through their mouths and
13 if -- well, you know, if you made a number of other assumptions
14 and if nasal cancer is the only concern, which is what EPA is
15 assuming, then this would make sense, and all the other
16 assumptions about it.

17 DR. ALEXEEFF: I think that's one difference. Our -- the
18 fundamental assumption is that we have is that formaldehyde does
19 not restrict its cancer effects to the nasal epithelium just
20 because that was what was shown in the rats.

21 There are a lot of examples of concordance between
22 monkeys from one location to another is not decided. And for us
23 it's a sort of logical sequence that if humans are going to be
24 breathing through the mouth, they are not going to be getting
25 cancer in the nose. They might get cancer in their nose process

1 as formaldehyde is a carcinogen.

2 The question is I think if you assume that what is
3 happening in the mouse's nasal area is very peculiar to the rat.
4 In other words -- excuse me. I said "mouse."

5 If what's happening in the rat's nasal area is peculiar
6 to the rat; there is something happening in the rat's nasal area
7 that is causing cancer, and it's not relevant to any other
8 species. And that's the assumption they're making. You're
9 going to prove it's in the epithelium and make the comparison
10 with other species.

11 But our assumption is that formaldehyde is neotoxic, and
12 it can cause cancer throughout the respiratory tract. And in
13 rats it shows up in the epithelium. That's the difference in
14 the approach.

15 And I think that's why there is that focus on the
16 nasoepithelium and why we disagree with that assumption. That
17 was the assumption presented by CIAC, and their staff feels it's
18 a valid assumption. And we disagree.

19 DR. DAWSON: And also I may say that as in Cassanova, the
20 ones that did the study, she says that she watched the monkeys
21 at some time during their six hours, and one of them in
22 particular didn't seem to be bothered by formaldehyde and didn't
23 breathe through its mouth. And it was kind of anecdotal.

24 DR. ALEXEEFF: The other thing that I think really
25 justifies our assumption there is the monkey cell proliferation

1 rate. Now, if we wanted to go the next step in the monkey, the
2 monkey beyond would be -- we have got cell proliferation in the
3 rat, but what about cell proliferation in the monkey, and how
4 does that fit in?

5 The information that we have is that cell proliferation
6 in the monkey occurs not just in the nasal epithelium, but in
7 the larynx and the lower part of the lung. That would be what
8 with we would consider to be the next step of consideration, but
9 the question is you can always keep taking this further and
10 further, and are we really improving the assessment or not?

11 But I think what it does do when we deal with it is what
12 are the bounds of this risk number? We have made the assumption
13 and where are we going to take it?

14 DR. FROINES: How many monkeys were there?

15 DR. DAWSON: Three.

16 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Could I interject just at this point? A
17 couple of points at Part A, because they may be relevant in the
18 discussion. And then we can come back. I'll make them fast.

19 I would like you to hear this, because I'm a little
20 concerned about this, okay? And I hope from another perspective
21 if we have this in December, I would hope some of these
22 questions in Part A, we can get together and address these
23 questions which are relevant, because could I just ask these
24 quick questions about Part A?

25 One of them is I see here on page A 12 on Emissions from

1 Mobile Sources, and I see throughout the point that something
2 like 90 percent of the formaldehyde in outside ambient air
3 average over the state is a result of chemical oxidation, okay?
4 That's reactions, and smog reactions, and so on.

5 But to have -- and that number of tons per day of
6 formaldehyde is based on ARB mobile source emission data, right?
7 And, in fact, the data, other data, are the 1984 studies from
8 SAI or someone but they have emissions.

9 Well, it's noted on the bottom of page A 12 -- and this
10 is quite -- I think as a result of the discussion we had, but
11 actually the emissions data for reactive organic gasses from
12 motor vehicles appear to be low by a factor of about anywhere
13 from 200 to 400 percent. In other words, the numbers that you
14 get by using the existing ARB or EPA mobile source models which
15 tell you how many such coming out the tailpipe is clearly off by
16 a factor of almost 300 percent.

17 MS. SHIROMA: Dr. Pitts, we worked closely with our --

18 CHAIRMAN PITTS: But that's at the bottom of page A 12
19 where you say, in fact, this is exactly the case. This is a
20 change from the previous draft that you have.

21 But you are saying staff believes that a significant
22 portion of the error is 50 to 100 percent off in terms of
23 formaldehyde. Is that what you're saying?

24 MS. SHIROMA: That's right.

25 CHAIRMAN PITTS: So then what I'm asking is, given your

1 work where you got that, do the figures, the numbers, have you
2 changed all the numbers and all the figures to reflect that you
3 have a 50 to 100 percent change? Do you follow what I'm saying?

4 DR. BECKER: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Let me say for the benefit of the people
6 here it's pretty clear that the number is at least 50 or a
7 hundred percent for total reactive organic gasses. I know it
8 has to be exceeded. I would guess, then, that you're saying
9 that your staff found maybe these numbers are wrong by a factor
10 of two. You have to double them or something like that. Is
11 that what you're saying?

12 DR. DAWSON: Yes, Dr. Pitts, actually we're just putting
13 a kind of an error down by numbers. It would be 100 percent of
14 the total rate to organic acid.

15 CHAIRMAN PITTS: You don't see the error bound in these
16 figures.

17 DR. DAWSON: Right.

18 CHAIRMAN PITTS: You don't see the error bound in the
19 numbers that I see of 90 percent, so many, 150,000 tons,
20 whatever. Is that in those figures? I think that's something
21 that could well be considered. I think it's important to
22 consider and put in, refine the numbers that are in here that
23 reflect the values that you actually have and are accepted by
24 all involved in the game, all the atmospheric including the ARB,
25 the problem being that the models that are used to predict what

1 comes out of the one's car are notoriously bad. They don't
2 reflect actual driving method.

3 When you measure the atmosphere, you find out the measure
4 of the level is at least a factor of two to four times higher
5 than what you predict, and that's one point.

6 So is there any reason why this document shouldn't
7 reflect it, and the error bars? If you've got error bars of 50
8 to 100 percent, that's a factor of two maybe. That's a lot
9 better than error bars of a hundred back here from the
10 biological side.

11 DR. DENTON: We will need to go back and talk to our
12 Inventory Emissions Control people.

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: To the Air Quality people and reconcile
14 the two.

15 DR. DENTON: Exactly. Exactly.

16 CHAIRMAN PITTS: You have to reconcile the ones that we
17 talked about to come out with what the numbers really are.
18 Okay?

19 DR. DENTON: We will do our best.

20 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Okay. Well, that's important. We have
21 two months now, a month and a half. I think it's important that
22 we reflect this.

23 Because if one reads this paragraph -- I think it's in
24 your own interest. You read a paragraph that says they are off
25 by their own assessment by maybe a hundred percent, but we have

1 put the numbers in here that don't reflect that. That's not
2 what you want to see happen.

3 DR. DENTON: We can clarify that.

4 CHAIRMAN PITTS: With an argument that you still haven't
5 verified.

6 The second point -- and this is strictly -- second point
7 here is I note that we say that we are not going to estimate --
8 no estimates were made for formaldehyde actual levels at hot
9 spots. In other words, about everything else we have done up to
10 date, we do a modeling run. We run a hot spot.

11 Didn't we have a hot spot model on spice around here for
12 ethylene oxide? Remember the spice we used? We have got a hot
13 spot.

14 I noticed that a very bald statement was made: We are
15 not going to do this, and that will be done in the
16 risk-management phase, but it seems to me up to now we have had
17 some indication of what the emission should be by a refinery, we
18 would have modeled it and if not modeled, measured something in
19 there so we have some hot spots.

20 MS. SHIROMA: Yes, and we understand that. The history
21 of what you're speaking on here as far as our previous documents
22 go. Basically we are in the era of streamlining.

23 So we felt that in the granting of things, looking at the
24 major sources of formaldehyde, realizing that much of it is from
25 the chemical reaction, there are a few sources that could be hot

1 spots. We looked at the overall information that we thought was
2 tending to substantiate the exposure to California. We felt
3 that basically because we had moved to take data coming in on
4 specific points, that basically when we do go through that data
5 they are timed to the new-source analysis. It wasn't in the
6 central component point for identification.

7 CHAIRMAN PITTS: In all the other previous -- toxics, we
8 have looked at it. Is that a change that's due to streamlining?
9 If it is, I'm concerned about it. That's next to a hot spot if
10 it's a change. Because it's formaldehyde. Maybe the source is
11 formaldehyde, and it's a new deal.

12 DR. DENTON: No, this is not the start of a new trend.
13 One of the problems with formaldehyde is that a lot of it does
14 come from mobile sources, and that takes a remodel. But that
15 hasn't been remodeled yet. And so because of the sources, it
16 came from a mobile source.

17 Because we knew that this data was going to be coming in
18 from the 25, 28, we decided to go ahead with the document. But
19 this is only unique to formaldehyde.

20 MS. SHIROMA: I'm sorry. I'm saying that first,
21 formaldehyde is unique in terms of the overall emissions, in
22 terms of the overall exposure, whether it's outdoor or indoor.
23 And your point is well taken on that.

24 And we do not have a thorough analysis for a hot spot in
25 this document. We felt that for the purposes of going through

1 your review and the Board's review it is not an essential
2 component for the compound.

3 There will be other compounds coming before you where the
4 situation will be similar, and where we can put the new-source
5 analyses in, we will. This particular compound, we feel that if
6 you look at the whole emissions inventory, there are a few
7 sources. There may be hot spots. We felt at this point we
8 should not delay to wait for that.

9 CHAIRMAN PITTS: You might also argue that that indoor
10 was so high you might want to, in the little time you have,
11 another six weeks, put something in there other than the bald
12 statement that you will look at it. Maybe a little explanation
13 along the lines I indicated. I think that again -- just so the
14 public, you know, someone living near a refinery says, okay,
15 it's coming out on such and such a site, feel a little left out
16 of it.

17 The other thing is I noticed that we have on smoking
18 here -- and Stan did not put me up to this. I mentioned it to
19 him this morning. And he didn't even blink. He just grinned.
20 On page A-47 here we have Lofroth. I can't pronounce his name.
21 I know the guy. It's got an umlaut over the "o." But I can't
22 pronounce an umlaut anyway. But that's okay.

23 On page A-47 in the middle of the paragraph it says,

24 (Reading)

25 Lofroth et al. recently measured formaldehyde

1 concentrations in sidestream cigarette smoke and
2 determined the airborne yield per cigarette is two
3 milligrams, or 2,000 micrograms.

4 (End of reading)

5 Okay. And it said they were -- the caveat that's under
6 lab conditions.

7 And then it says (Reading)

8 Although cigarette smoke can elevate formaldehyde
9 concentrations in small and closed spaces the
10 average formaldehyde concentration of a home does not
11 appear to be elevated significantly by the presence of
12 smokers.

13 (End of reading)

14 Is that really true? Do you want to put the data in --
15 not put the data in because that's not going to show the actual
16 concentration.

17 DR. DAWSON: Yes, we found that true. The elevations
18 actually for cigarette smoke indoors do not significantly
19 affect the overall concentration.

20 CHAIRMAN PITTS: How much would it go? One ppbv or two?
21 Is that what you're saying?

22 DR. DAWSON: Well, maybe a ppbv -- of the total
23 concentration, it might be give 55 or 59 ppbv.

24 CHAIRMAN PITTS: So it might go five or nine. But you
25 see that's more than the average outdoor. But the increase, I

1 could say, then, that the smoking indoors increases your risk in
2 the same degree, if I assume linearity, as just going outside on
3 a smoggy day in L.A; is that right? Just smoking increment.

4 DR. DAWSON: I realize what you're saying. That was just
5 based on the one study. That was the SAI study which was fairly
6 insignificant. They only studied three homes which mentioned in
7 part of their survey that they had smokers in their home. So
8 out of that extrapolation they correspond the concentration of
9 the 59 ppbv with the indoor mean concentration of a ppbv of over
10 70. So it wasn't conclusive. That study wasn't conclusive in
11 saying that okay, cigarette smoke in general is going to
12 contribute nine ppbv.

13 CHAIRMAN PITTS: No, I understand. But you could
14 conclude that that's not totally insignificant.

15 DR. DAWSON: Right.

16 DR. GLANZ: I would agree. I was busy struggling with
17 Part B. I figured you would take Part A. I think that's a very
18 misleading statement that you have in there, actually, for
19 several reasons.

20 Isn't there -- I could have sworn that I have seen
21 measurements of formaldehyde in indoor environments when people
22 are smoking. I think there is older stuff that people have put
23 down.

24 DR. DENTON: Dr. Glanz, the reason for that statement is
25 there was not significant difference in those homes, and I would

1 point out there were only three homes that were studied. So the
2 significance refers to the statistical.

3 DR. GLANZ: Yes, that's very misleading especially with
4 the angles free.

5 DR. DAWSON: The Hawthorne et al; Traynor study, those
6 studies did not study the cigarette smoke. And it was shown
7 that that was still indoor concentrations.

8 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Although cigarette smoke and elevated
9 formaldehyde concentrations in small enclosed spaces like
10 external chambers, how small are external chambers?

11 DR. DAWSON: I'm not sure.

12 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Well, that's important. You see, if you
13 get a little more information on that end, you're a little
14 better off than stating the facts, and maybe the reader can sort
15 of draw the conclusion.

16 In three homes, certainly not a statistical number,
17 however, the following was found. These chambers are this big,
18 and if you have more people in this, and you get into a small
19 den, you line up -- and something like that.

20 DR. GLANZ: I'm amazed that somebody does statistics with
21 this sample size. You probably have a right to about a one
22 percent power.

23 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Well, we have some other things we can
24 discuss. I think in fairness to our --

25 DR. FROINES: Before we stop, can I ask George a

1 question, or anybody who knows the answer. I don't know the
2 answer. Does anybody have any idea if you live in Los Angeles,
3 say, and it's a hot, smoggy August day, does anybody have any
4 idea how much -- has anybody ever looked at cell proliferation
5 under those kinds of environments?

6 DR. DAWSON: I haven't heard of anything, have you?

7 DR. ALEXEEF: No, I haven't.

8 DR. FROINES: Hasn't somebody put a rat in L.A. air and
9 tried to see if it --

10 DR. ALEXEEF: Sounds like a good idea for a grant.

11 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Could you say that for the benefit of
12 the audience?

13 DR. WITSCHI: Once many, many years ago, 20 years ago, I
14 talked to a man who at one time in Montreal made headlines by
15 publishing evidence that lung cells were renewing. Until then
16 the lung had been considered to be an organ that there was no
17 cell renewal.

18 And I called him, and he just chuckled, and he said,
19 from the moment he kept his rats in clean environments, he
20 didn't see any cell turnover in the lungs anymore. So I don't
21 think really that cell turnover in the lungs was finished then.

22 DR. DAWSON: Well, actually, I do know of one study, at
23 least, by Russ Sherwin at USC who took -- I think it was mice --
24 and had them in clean air, really filtered the air well. And
25 then he had just ordinary L.A. air. And there were very

1 significant effects. One I'm certain of was adenoma.

2 DR. FROINES: Well, sometime when George and you guys
3 don't have anything else to do, maybe you ought to try and model
4 what that would look like in terms of risk, because that's real.

5 DR. WITSCHI: I'll tell you another one. I just finished
6 a study in which I treated a bunch of hamsters in lung specific
7 carginogen. A couple of the guys were kept in air, about 30
8 percent with are come in lung. Had exposed 24 hours a day to 50
9 ppm for six months, and none of them had any lung tumors. So
10 it's good for you.

11 CHAIRMAN PITTS: Well, that's it for today.

12 (The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, CLARA MAE MATHIS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the foregoing meeting of the Scientific Review Panel of the Air Resources Board was reported in shorthand by me, Clara Mae Mathis, and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said meeting nor in any way interested in the outcome of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of November, 1991.

Clara Mae Mathis

CLARA MAE MATHIS
CSR No. 2832